



Fonda speaks out
on abortion row

LUXOR (AFP) — U.S. ambassador Jane Fonda added her voice to the debate over abortion here Sunday on the eve of a controversial U.N. population conference.

Mrs. Fonda, in Egypt for the conference, said she agreed with U.S. President Bill Clinton that abortion should be "safe, legal and rare."

The conference proposals condone abortion, as well as homosexuality and sex outside marriage. Ms. Fonda added that she and her husband Ted Turner, who owns the U.S. television channel CNN, were "concerned about the issues of population growth" and had helped to prepare the forum. The actress was guest of honour at a specially-organised trip to the southern town of Luxor, organised by Egypt to help revive tourism. She said she felt "extremely safe" on a four-hour visit to town, once the Pharaonic capital of Egypt. Egyptian minister, South African delegates, Miss Universe and a battery of media people accompanied her on the tour. Egyptian officials hope to capitalise on the nine-day population conference to boost the ailing tourism industry, which has been hard hit by a two-year campaign of violence by Islamic militants that has killed more than 400 people. Ms. Fonda visited the pyramids of Cairo earlier Sunday and described her trip as "a dream." As for Miss Universe, Sushmita Sen from India has already visited the pyramids and shunned off a threat from the underground Jamaat Islamiya to disrupt the conference by attacking foreigners.

Rwandan ballet to perform for 1st time since war

KIGALI (AFP) — The all-Rwandan National Ballet troupe will this week perform the country's first organised cultural event since the bloody three-month civil war, officials said Monday. But Wednesday's performance of traditional Rwandan music and dance, taking place in Kigali's Franco-Rwandan Cultural Exchange Centre, will be as much as exercise in diplomacy as an artistic endeavour, with the central African nation's new government and France both hoping it will break the ice in frosty bilateral relations. Links between France and the former rebels of the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) now holds power have been strained over Paris's traditional support for the country's Hutu majority and its policing until Aug. 22.

Alpine iceman was Italian

LONDON (R) — Otzi the 5,300-year-old iceman found in an Alpine glacier three years ago was an Italian, say researchers who studied the mummified body used as toilet paper. The iceman was found sticking out of the glacier by two climbers in the Oetztal Alps on the Austro-Italian border. He had been freeze-dried 10,000 feet (3,000 metres) above sea level. Dr. James Dickson, of Glasgow University in Scotland, says he has solved Otzi's nationality after researching the moss found round the body. "Most sets were often used — until recently — for wiping. People would grab a clump and use it later. That is what Otzi must have done," Dr. Dickson told the Observer newspaper. "Among all the clothes and belongings that were scattered around Otzi's body were various clumps and traces of moss."

Solvent abuse is 2nd biggest U.K. adolescent killer

LONDON (R) — Solvent abuse is the second biggest killer of British adolescents after road accidents, according to a report published Monday. It kills three people every week, most of them aged between 14 and 16, and 38 per cent of those who die are first-time users. Good Housekeeping magazine said in its survey. Figures cited by the magazine showed that 13 per cent of children had tried sniffing solvents by the time they were 15.

EU grants Jordan 30m ECUs

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Union (EU) has agreed to grant Jordan 30 million European Currency Units (ECUs) to support the Kingdom's economic reform programme. The amount will be used to finance imports for the health and education sectors. The EU last year granted Jordan 50 million ECUs. In another development, the EU and Jordan have recently concluded an agreement whereby the EU will give Jordan 11 million ECUs to help finance a water improvement project. The project aims to help the country meet water shortage, and expand and replace water networks in various parts of the Kingdom, including Karak, Tafila, Shobak, Kufra, Ramtha, Mafrqa and Madaba. The European Investment Bank will also provide 12 million ECUs to the Water Authority of Jordan to help it conduct the necessary maintenance on salt water networks.

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AMMAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, RABI' ALAKHER 2, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 fils

Vatican not expected to sign population document

Holy See baulks at EU compromise

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore said here Tuesday he did not expect the Vatican to sign a plan on curbing world birth rates despite moves towards a compromise on abortion at the U.N. population conference.

The Vatican said meanwhile it could not give "implicit or explicit" support to parts of the 113-page document which the 182 states at the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development have been asked to endorse.

Vatican officials and Muslim conservatives charge that many sections condone abortion, homosexuality and pre-marital sex.

"No one should have any illusion that there's going to be some kind of result that causes the Vatican to sign this document," according to Mr. Gore who had held talks with Vatican delegates for 40 minutes on Tuesday.

However, Timothy Wirth, a U.S. State Department official, and British delegates said momentum was building towards a compromise agreement on a key section of the plan concerning abortion.

An Iranian official added that Islamic states were also heading for a compromise.

When asked if there was a contradiction between Mr. Gore's and his remarks, Mr. Wirth said the vice president did not want to raise "false expectations."

Mr. Gore said that even without the Vatican's signature, the "final document will

have the broadest consensus ever."

European countries had proposed a compromise formula that was discussed here Tuesday in a bid to save the plan aimed at preventing the population from almost doubling to 10 billion in the next 50 years.

The Vatican, which has been mounting a campaign to prevent the conference's final document from even indirectly supporting abortion as a means of family planning, spelled out its position in a three-page statement.

The Holy See publicly acknowledges that there are serious problems connected with population growth," an official statement from the Holy See delegation said.

The Vatican has been locked in a battle over the wording of draft of the final document, which it fears could indirectly support abortion as a means of family planning.

The vice president, who had come under personal attack from the Holy See last week, said the Vatican "will not sign the document in Cairo no matter what happens within the range of what's likely to happen."

But Mr. Gore insisted the conference was already a success and had not been sidetracked by the publicity over the abortion issue.

Once the delegates arrived in Cairo and real discussions began it became clear that the controversy was over "about less than one per cent" of the action plan to slow population growth.

The Vatican said "Holy See cannot give explicit or implicit support to those parts of the document regarding abortion," as well as those it said harm the family and encourage free sex among young people.

The Vatican forcefully told the conference that while it recognised rapid population growth as a serious problem,

it would not make major concessions on abortion or family issues.

On the second day of the conference, the Vatican also stressed that it had not changed its position against use of contraceptives, including condoms.

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(Continued on page 12)

Sharaa tells Israelis to be serious Rabin proposes 3-year phased withdrawal from the Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday proposed a three-year withdrawal from the Golan Heights to test Syria's will in making peace with Israel.

These years are necessary to test Syrian intentions over the normalisation of relations before Israel completes its withdrawal," he told military radio.

Rabin refused to say how far Israel would withdraw from the strategic plateau, which it captured in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Syria is insisting on a full withdrawal, and Mr. Rabin commented that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad wanted peace but "at his own price."

He added that Israel, which has made peace with

Egypt and signed deals with the PLO and Jordan, now had "Islamic extremism" as its main enemy.

Syria, however, urged Israel also Tuesday to get serious in their peace talks, which are stalled over Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The blunt message was delivered by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa after talks in London with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Asked how optimistic he was about a peace deal, the Syrian minister told reporters: "From our side, we are serious, we are committed to peace."

"But at the same time we would like to see much more seriousness from the Israeli

(Continued on page 12)

Aziz denies contacts with Israel

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraq's deputy prime minister has denied reports that Baghdad had contacts with Israel aimed at making peace with the Jewish state in return for the lifting of U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

In a signed article in Wednesday's edition of the London-based Al Quds Al Arabi daily, Tareq Aziz said: "There is no basis for the claims about contacts between Iraq and Israel."

"There is no practical basis for the assumption that such contacts might help in lifting the embargo," he wrote.

Iraqi and Israeli officials have denied that a deal is under discussion. But this has not stopped speculation that they may be secretly trying to work out an accommodation.

One scenario has it that the talk of an Iraqi-Israeli rapprochement is designed to put pressure on Syria to resume peace negotiations with Israel, which have been stalled since February.

Mr. Aziz's article was apparently aimed at scotching

speculation of exploratory clandestine dealings for good.

However, it was visited by Mr. Aziz in August to Jordan and Morocco, the two Arab states with open channels with Israel, that bolstered the talk of Iraqi-Israeli contacts.

In the Al Quds article Mr. Aziz specifically said there have been no meetings or contacts between senior Iraqi officials and the pro-Israel Jewish lobby in the United States.

Mr. Aziz's article was apparently aimed at scotching

(Continued on page 12)



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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation



World Bank to open office in Palestinian areas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The World Bank will open a representative office to serve Palestinian self-rule territories in the next few weeks, Palestinian officials said on Tuesday. The bank, which has a key role coordinating billions of dollars of aid promised by the international community for Palestinian development, has got approval from both Israel and the PLO to set up the office, the sources said. The Palestinian self-rule authority has complained donors are delaying delivering the funds to put political pressure on the PLO. Donors say they need more transparency about how funds they contribute will be spent. World Bank Vice-President Cais Koch-Weser is currently visiting the West Bank and Gaza. He is due to sign an agreement with PLO leader Yasser Arafat on Wednesday on loans the World Bank has allocated to Palestinian development. The officials said Palestinians were pressing for the bank's office to be situated in Ramallah, to reinforce the concept of imminent Palestinian self-rule throughout West Bank. If Israel refused, it would be in one of the self-rule areas of Gaza or Jericho.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visits one of the formations of the 5th Royal Armoured Division

Present era broadens army's role — Regent

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited one of the formations of the 5th Royal Armoured Division at a training site, where he was received by the commanders of the division who briefed him on the stages of the military exercise carried out by the formation.

Prince Hassan co-chaired the officers' greetings from His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Regent stressed in a speech to the officers the importance of equipping the armed forces with the latest armament technology and organisation.

Prince Hassan said modernisation and development of the Armed Forces should be in line with the priorities set by the users, and noted the importance of being objective and realistic when dealing with priorities.

"Talking about the peace process leads us to talk about rebuilding the Armed Forces in accordance with the requirements of this era, which practically broadens their responsibilities," the Prince said.

He added that Jordan plays a pivotal role in the region.

"The Armed Forces' role is a distinguished one in all circumstances. Their role in the coming stage is as important as it was in the past,"

He pointed out.

Prince Hassan inspected training activities and watched a number of demonstrations including shooting with live ammunition.

The Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan added that the Armed Forces shoulder the responsibility for protecting and maintaining "our borders" and securing the country's borders.

"Our new perception of the Armed Force's structure and organisation in the next stage should lead us to be convinced that the shift from the present system to a new one is a shift towards a better force not only by the standards of the region but also those of the world," he pointed out.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan plays a vital role in the region, and it must be included in the security of the region," Mr. Velayati declared, speaking in Farsi through an Arabic translator.

He said the joint Israeli-Palestinian security coordination committee had promised another 120 would be sent home soon.

Mr. Zakaria said Saturday's protest was part of a campaign to push for the release of at least 5,000 prisoners still in Israeli jails, and for released prisoners with short sentences left to be allowed to go home.

"Otherwise, we will take measures against Israelis and Jewish settlers on Road 90,"

he warned, referring to a highway used by joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols and by Jewish settlers.

"This is a warning not only to (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but to (PLO Chief Yasser) Arafat in Gaza and elsewhere," he said, refusing to elaborate.

Brigadier General Saadi Naji, head of the Palestinian delegation in the joint security team, confirmed that Israel had "promised to help us solve this problem."

He could not give a date for more releases from Jericho but added: "We already have 500 (stock in Jericho). Does this mean we are going to take in 5,000 more when their turn comes?"

Israeli officials were unavailable for comment as Tuesday was religious holiday in Israel.

"Otherwise, we will take measures against Israelis and Jewish settlers on Road 90,"

he added.

It was the 10th such session of a special committee formed in 1991 to oversee the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

The latest talks came as Iraq campaigns to gain support for the removal of crippling United Nations sanctions which prevent Baghdad from resuming vital oil exports or trading normally.

in Sarajevo had told the Pope of its extreme condition over his visit but stressed it would do everything to ensure the pontiff's security during his stay.

Bosnian Serbs whose forces surround Sarajevo had refused to provide assurances that Sarajevans who turned out to greet the 76-year-old pontiff would be safe. They said Muslims would stage an incident and then blame the Serbs.

"Unfortunately, these guarantees could not be obtained despite a series of contacts with the parties involved," the statement said.

News of the cancellation came as eleven artillery shells fired from Bosnian Serb territory slammed into outlying areas of eastern Sarajevo in breach of the U.N. heavy weapons exclusion zone.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Major Koos Sol said in Sarajevo. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Preparations for the visit were already well under way, with the Pope's bullet-proof vehicle, popularly known as the "popemobile," flown into Sarajevo aboard a U.N. military plane.

The U.N. Protection Force

(Continued on page 3)

Velayati calls for end to Iraq embargo

Palestinian police detain 21 Islamists

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police detained 21 Islamic Jihad activists in Gaza City early on Tuesday, Palestinian sources said.

Israeli security sources said the arrests were in response to an ambush in the Gaza Strip on Sunday in which an Israeli soldier was killed. The Islamic Jihad said its members killed the soldier as part of a "holy struggle to liberate Palestine."

The Israeli sources said a Palestinian injured in Sunday's shootout led police to the detainees but Palestinians denied the report.

Palestinian sources said the detainees, among them the spokesman for the group, Abu 'Iah Al Shami, were not involved in violent activities.

An gunmen in a moving car killed an Israeli soldier and wounded two others patrolling near Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. Israeli troops have

drawn from most of the Gaza Strip as part of an Israel-PLO deal but Islamic groups oppose the deal and have vowed to continue their armed struggle against the Jewish state.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned this week that the attacks against Israelis endanger the peace agreement.

"The absence of firm and effective action by the Palestine authority to halt the terror of the extremists opposed to the peace process will create problems on Israel's part in continuing the agreement," Mr. Rabin said following Sunday's attack.

"I am beginning to feel that they (the Palestinian Authority) are going too far," he told state radio.

"I am not in the habit of making threats, but we insist, if the authority does not change its way of dealing with terrorism... it will be very hard to go on."

Algerian authorities free 2 journalists

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian authorities have freed two journalists who were supporters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) after holding them for two years without charge, lawyers close to the fundamentalist movement said Tuesday.

Salah Gouami and Loucif Kassa were freed Saturday after spending two years in Al Harrach prison in the east of the city.

Mr. Gouami, a former journalist with Algerian television, edited the FIS daily "El Mounqidh" (The Saviour)

before his arrest, while Mr. Kassa was a television journalist.

The lawyers meanwhile said the authorities would in the next few days release Aboelkader Hacbane, the former head of FIS's provisional executive bureau, on bail.

A lawyer for the FIS leaders, Ali Zouita, is also expected to be released.

Another leading member of FIS, Othmane Aissani, was freed on bail on Aug. 28, the lawyers said. His liberation has already been announced in the press.

Egypt, U.S. sign economic agreement

CAIRO (RJ) — President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Vice-President Al Gore signed an economic partnership agreement on Tuesday to increase American investment in Egypt.

Mr. Gore told a news conference the United States was firmly committed to help economic growth and development in Egypt.

"The two countries can now work together and move ahead with their warm relations," he said.

"We agreed to initiate a new partnership for economic growth and development, the goals and mechanisms which will operate within the framework of existing American aid levels," he added.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt would continue implementing its economic reform programme to help stimulate economic growth.

"We are still committed to our vigorous economic reform programme because we firmly believe it constitutes the best available option for improving the quality of life for all Egyptian citizens," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Gore signed a statement calling for the formation of a joint economic committee to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

The statement said Egypt and the United States hoped the committee would encourage and facilitate private



Hosni Mubarak

sector contacts, intensified trade flows, strengthen science and technology cooperation and launch a dialogue on economic policies that will promote growth and development.

The statement said the joint committee would be formally organised in a meeting between senior U.S. and Egyptian officials next month.

The U.S. and Egypt agree that the climate for economic development in the region is rapidly improving, the moment is at hand for hard work to take advantage of the new opportunities, both sides are encouraged by the prospects and are determined to move ahead vigorously," the statement said.

Mr. Gore said he and Mr. Mubarak also discussed Middle East peace.



U.S. actress and U.N. goodwill ambassador Jane Fonda (L) is escorted by Egyptian stars Yussra (C) and Hussein Fahmi (R) during a visit in the southern town of Luxor, Egypt. (AFP photo).

Rabin ready to invite Hrawi

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin says he is prepared to receive Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Jerusalem although he does not find him any more likeable than PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Besides Arafat there are other leaders in the Arab World who are not likeable, such as President Hrawi," Mr. Rabin said in an interview with the Yediot Aharanot for the Jewish new year on Tuesday.

"However, I would be prepared to make peace with them if they came to Jerusalem."

But Mr. Rabin said he would not allow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to visit Jerusalem, even if he asked to do so.

The prime minister added: "The problem with Arafat is not the lack of chemistry between us but our fundamental conceptions of a final settlement."

On Syria, Mr. Rabin suggested Israel would be prepared to accept the Syrian military presence in Lebanon under a peace treaty.

"Under the present situation in Lebanon, I don't know if any government in Beirut can really cope with terrorism in the south without Syrian backing," he said.

Also Tuesday Mr. Rabin accused Japan and Europe of failing to put enough pressure on Iran which Israel blames for Islamic terror across the world.

The move is seen as the opening salvo of a campaign

to drum up support among American Jewish leaders, whom the Rabin administration feels have been less than supportive of the Middle East peace process, the daily said.

Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton are scheduled to hold a live satellite teleconference next Monday fielding questions from American Jews at 70 sites around the United States.

"It helps people feel that this is a leadership in Israel that doesn't look at peace naively, but looks at peace in a hard-nosed way," Israeli Ambassador to Amman Rabinovich told the Post.

Besides the Sept. 13 peace agreement last year between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, signed at the White House, the recent accord with Jordan and normalisation with Arab countries, such as Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and Bahrain has helped in "sending home the message that something very profound is changing," Mr. Rabinovich said.

Wearing a white yarmulke, Mr. Clinton attended a ceremony Monday for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, at Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, where he is vacationing. He expressed hope for continued progress in the Middle East.

Mr. Clinton exchanged greetings with Rabbi Joshua Plant, who said Mr. Clinton may be the first sitting U.S. president to attend a Rosh Hashanah service.

The letter was accompanied by a 48-page "Resource Guide for the High Holidays" providing sample sermons and stating that ceding territory is consistent with Jewish law if it saves lives.

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Palestinian television on the air

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — The Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation has begun showing test programmes ahead of the official opening scheduled for Saturday, officials said.

"For the moment we are working with what we have: a television truck donated by France and two studios equipped by Denmark and Germany," PBC chairman Yasser Arafat told AFP.

"We will open from September 10 between six and 10 o'clock in the evening and that will include two news bulletins," he said.

Mr. Makki said the service was planned for shortly after the launch of Palestinian autonomy in May.

"But the Israeli authorities set up obstacles and have been slow giving us a channel to broadcast on. That's why PLO chairman Yasser Arafat decided that we would start transmitting like a private station on a UHF channel."

The Palestinian Authority intends to build a relay station in Khan Yunis to enable transmissions to be picked up across the strip, home to some 800,000 Gazans.

Among test programmes was Mr. Arafat opening a school in Gaza City for the new term which was shown Sunday night.

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the 1991 Gulf war, Iraq's 1990-91 invasion of Kuwait, repeated border crossings, equipment left behind in battlefields, seek weapons or smuggle arms and alcohol.

"They confessed they had infiltrated Kuwait to escape the security police of the cruel Iraqi regime," Al Watan newspaper said. It did not say when or in what part of the desert frontier the breach by the men aged between 17 and 22 took place.

Kuwait, to try to keep out infiltrators from former occupier Iraq, last year dug a three-metre deep and five-metre wide trench along the 207 km (130 mile) border.

The government plans to floodlighting and sensors.

For at least two years after

\$17b target for population funding possible'

CAIRO (AFP) — Wealthy and developing countries are headed towards pledging the \$17 billion the United Nations has requested for programmes to help curb birth rates in poor nations, a U.S. official said Tuesday.

"The thought is that the total level of commitment to population programmes by the year 2000 should be in the neighbourhood of 15 to 17 billion dollars," said Timothy Wirth, undersecretary of state for Global Affairs at the State Department.

"We are moving rapidly in that direction," Mr. Wirth said on the second day of the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development.

He talked of funding increases by the United States, Britain, Australia, Japan and Germany.

Mr. Wirth hoped the target would be set by the end of the conference, due to wind up on Sept. 13.

"But no final numbers have been agreed to," and there have been no commitments, he cautioned.

"But a Western expert said earlier that growing alarm over U.N. proposals means "it is likely that the conference will not make any financial commitments."

Ahead of the conference, several donors did promise to increase their levels of aid in support moves on population growth. Germany pledged \$2 billion between 1995 and 2001, and Japan \$3 billion spread over seven years.

The United States, the EU and Scandinavian countries have also signalled an increase in their budgets.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Get to work to welcome millions — Cousteau

CAIRO (AFP) — French environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau said Tuesday the world should accept the inevitable population boom and get on with the job of preparing a decent future for the billions to come. "We will be 10 to 12 billions, I welcome them all. Let's roll up our sleeves and prepare a decent coming for them," he told AFP at the U.N. population conference that opened here Monday. "It is not a question of resources, we have to reorganise society according to this number which is inevitable," Mr. Cousteau told AFP. "Let's get to work instead of complaining," he added.

Moi urges 'seriousness' in Sudanese talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi called on negotiators in Sudan's civil war Tuesday to show greater seriousness "because the longer we continue to deliberate, the more lives and property continue to be wasted or lost." Addressing the opening session of the fourth round of Sudanese peace talks here, Mr. Moi urged the envoys to "take courage and decide one way or the other." After the speech the delegates representing Sudan's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) began two days of talks under the chairmanship of Kenyan research, technical training and technology minister Zachary Onyango.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Market Prices

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	600 / 400
Banana	100 / 80
Banana (Mukhamar)	110 / 90
Cabbage	340 / 220
Carrot	250 / 150
Cauliflower	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	380 / 220
Eggplant	200 / 120
Globe artichoke	200 / 120
Grapes	420 / 320
Grapes (Hilwan)	580 / 400
Guava	360 / 240
Lemon	260 / 180
Marrow (large)	240 / 160
Mushroom	480 / 320
Onion (dry)	140 / 90
Onion (AZ)	280 / 180
Pepper (hot)	260 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	320 / 240
Potato	300 / 200
Pomegranate	340 / 240
Tomato	120 / 80
String beans	700 / 500
Watermelon	600 / 400

(Continued from page 1)

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly light to moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. ... 18/32

Deserts ... 16 / 35

Jordan Valley ... 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31 Aqaba 35. Humidity

AMMAN (RJ) — The Jordanian government has approved a 20-year plan to develop the railway network to help finance the project. The plan aims to increase Central Bank's budget by 1.5 billion dinars over the period. The government will contribute 10% of the cost.

The plan also includes the construction of a new terminal at the Queen Alia International Airport.

Other stations will be built along the route, including a new station at the King Abdullah II Bridge.

King Hassan II has already given his approval for the project.

King Hussein has also given his approval for the project.

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Australia stunned by MP's killing

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's top investigators Tuesday took charge of the hunt for the killers of New South Wales MP John Newman, a leading campaigner against gang violence among Asian immigrants.

Mr. Newman's killers are believed by police to have been waiting for him as he stepped outside his home Monday night to pull a tarpaulin over his car, a nightly routine after it had been paintbombed three times in recent months.

The 47-year-old opposition Labour MP was shot twice in the chest with a handgun as his fiancee, Chinese-born Xiao Jing (Lucy) Wang, 28, watched from the carport where she had been helping, police said.

Mr. Newman had received many death threats linked to his fearless crusade against gangs who terrorise the large Vietnamese community in his constituency of Cabramatta, one of Australia's most turbulent ethnic communities.

In 1991 a bullet was fired through the window of his office.

But Tuesday's crime nevertheless stunned a country which had not known the

assassination of a politician for more than 70 years.

Mr. Newman died only four days after he told Labour colleague Ted Grace: "The bastards are still out to get me."

New South Wales State Premier John Fahey was "shocked and saddened" by news of the assassination, which he said was "not the Australian way."

"He was like a tiger," said Mr. Grace. "He just wouldn't let go."

State Police Commissioner Tony Lauer told reporters police surveillance of Mr. Newman's fortified home had been provided for many months after he reported a number of incidents, but had been removed with his agreement three weeks ago.

Mr. Lauer said the man who has investigated some of Australia's most infamous murders, Detective Chief Superintendent Mike Hagan will head a team of investigators based at Cabramatta.

Chief Hagan led the investigation which snared the celebrated "granny killer" and the murderers of Sydney heart surgeon Victor Chang.

Prime Minister Paul Keating, visiting Japan, was deeply shocked by the killing as "a disgraceful

and cowardly act" and pledged the full resources of the federal government to bring those responsible to justice.

"The bastards are still out to get me."

"He was like a tiger," said Mr. Grace. "He just wouldn't let go."

State Police Commissioner Tony Lauer told reporters police surveillance of Mr. Newman's fortified home had been provided for many months after he reported a number of incidents, but had been removed with his agreement three weeks ago.

Mr. Newman, a karate black-belt and something of a political champion in the Cabramatta community, was no stranger to tragedy. His pregnant wife Mary and only child David died in a car crash 14 years ago.

He had installed surveillance cameras and other security equipment at his home after his car was painted.

Police said a Ford Falcon seen racing from the house about 9:30 p.m. Monday was thought to have been involved, but they had only a vague description of two people believed to have been involved in the shooting.

A car which had been

found matching the description of the getaway vehicle had yielded potentially "fruitful evidence."

Police Chief Inspector Alan Leek told reporters Mr. Newman's fiancee had been bending at the front of the car attaching the tarpaulin when the first of four shots was fired by one man using a handgun.

"Ms. Wang saw the vehicle and has been able to assist us with a description," he said, but added that without her glasses, she had only been able to tell police the man who fired the shots had been wearing "some sort of head covering."

She had ran screaming for help to a neighbour who raised the alarm, two constables who arrived shortly afterwards tried to revive him and did momentarily, but he died shortly afterwards.

In an interview with AFP last year, Mr. Newman talked about numerous threats to his life and he said Asian people were being terrorised in their homes by gangs with no respect or fear of Australian laws.

One caller had said in an Asian accent: "You dead, Newman. We kill you."



French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (centre) receives his Luxembourg counterpart Jacques Santer (left) in Paris. Mr. Santer will replace Jacques Delors as EC president in January 1995 (AFP photo)

EU set for fight over key posts

BRUSSELS (R) — Jacques Santer, compromise choice to lead the European Union's Executive Commission, now faces the tricky task of judging key portfolios among the men and women who will take office with him in January.

The Luxembourg prime minister, who was selected by the 12 member governments after heated rows over a successor to Jacques Delors, has embarked on a tour of EU capitals to gauge opinions about the new lineup from the same governments, which must also nominate his colleagues.

It will be a closely scrutinised test for Mr. Santer, a low-profile conciliator who stands in stark contrast to Mr. Delors, the dynamic, long-serving Frenchman he will replace.

What emerges will help set the Commission's long-term policies in areas ranging from trade to telecommunications liberalisation and monopoly legislation.

Sixteen commissioners, many of them new, will take up their posts in January with Mr. Santer. As many as four more will join in when and if Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden enter the bloc next year as part of the EU's expansion programme.

Assigning briefs is officially done by consensus among the commissioners. In practice, however, it is carried out by the president deftly balancing the interests of member states and the egos of the commissioners themselves.

Most oil workers have already gone back to work, according to industry sources, while normal fuel supplies have been restored to the economic capital Lagos, which had been crippled for weeks by the strike that began on July 4.

The dismissed leadership of PENGASSAN, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria, wants the junta to pay arrears owed to its partners in the industry and to restore order in the southern oil-producing regions of the country, where oil workers have been attacked by local residents, Mr. Dabiri said.

PENGASSAN would not be satisfied only with the release of jailed opposition leader Moshood Abiola.

PENGASSAN and its sister union, the National Union of Petrol and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), launched the strike to pressure the regime to stand down and hand over power to Mr. Abiola, the presumed winner of presidential elections held on June 12 last year and then voided by the military.

Smokey Mountain is a smouldering hill of garbage in Manila that has been the

Mr. Santer's task is being made all the more difficult by the European Parliament, which is demanding to be set his team and its portfolios by November so that commissioners can be grilled by relevant committees in U.S. congressional-style hearings.

There is also a growing belief that he proposed enlargement of the union is creating an unwieldy commission with too many commissioners for too few substantial jobs. Small countries nominate one member each and large states have two.

Among those appointed so far is Sir Leon Brittan, re-nominated by London along with newcomer Neil Kinnock, the former opposition Labour Party leader whose wife, Glenys, is a recently elected member of the European Parliament.

Sir Leon wants to keep his high-profile job as trade chief and, if possible, add foreign political relations.

That is the current domain of Hans Van Den Broek of the Netherlands, whose is not expected back because of a change in government at home. He is also considered a top candidate for secretary-general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

But Mr. Santer is unlikely to be able to combine two weighty portfolios for Sir Leon given the larger commission.

Germany's commissioners will be decided after a general election there on Oct. 16. The opposition Social Democrats want trade union leader

Monika Wulf-Mathies, and the liberal Free Democrats, member of the current coalition, want to reappoint Industry commissioner Martin Bangemann.

This would leave German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats without a commissioner.

If Mr. Bangemann does return, he favours a new high-technology portfolio to be spun off from his current job. He also wants various research programmes to go with it, giving him control of some purse strings as well.

Some commentators say this may appeal to Mr. Santer because it would allow the remains of Mr. Bangemann's industry portfolio to go to Edith Cresson, a former French Socialist prime minister.

France, which has had the presidency of the commission with Mr. Delors for 10 years, is keen to get an influential economic portfolio, such as industrial policy.

Mr. Cresson was appointed Monday with Yves Thibault De Silgy, an adviser to conservative Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Among other likely or definite returnees are Belgian Karel Van Miert and Spain's Marcelino Oreja and Manuel Marin. Others, however, know or suspect they are on the way out.

Greece is replacing Yannis Paleokrassas, with Christos Papoutsis, a 41-year-old economist and Euro-MP.

Ramon sets image-building trip to Europe

MANILA (R) — President Fidel Ramos flies to Europe Thursday on a mission to repair what a senior official says is the Philippines' image as a land of kidnappers, coup plotters and foreign paedophiles.

Mocked in the Manila press for his penchant for travelling, the 66-year-old former armed forces chief will visit Italy, Spain, France, Belgium and Germany in his 11th foreign trip since taking office 26 months ago.

Eager for foreign investment, the Philippines is struggling to shed its image of political instability, lawlessness and as a haven for so-called sex tourists.

"I think you can summarise the image of the Philippines as a country of coups d'état, Smokey Mountain and paedophiles," Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo told reporters.

About 20 joint venture agreements are expected to be signed between European investors and the estimated 100 businessmen representing

small and medium-scale industries who will join Mr. Ramos. Trade Undersecretary Cesar Bautista said.

In Paris, Filipino and French officials could sign an agreement involving joint production of military equipment to help modernise the ill-equipped Philippine army.

Mr. Romulo said the European Union is a growing source of official development assistance (ODA) and a promising export market.

Europe's ODA commitment to Manila rose by 145 per cent to \$197 million in 1993 from \$80 million in 1992.

In Rome, Mr. Ramos is to meet Pope John Paul. The meeting comes at a time of strained relations between the Protestant president and the country's Roman Catholic Church over his campaign to promote wider use of contraceptives to curb a 2.4 per cent annual population growth rate.

MILAN (R) — The last supper, one of Leonardo Da Vinci's most famous frescoes, will undergo major restoration work starting this week and will be closed to the public until mid-1995, city art officials said Monday. The painting, which shows Jesus Christ surrounded by his 12 apostles during the last meal before he was crucified, has been damaged by air pollution, humidity and dust, officials said. They added that a climate control device and air purifier would be installed in the refectory at the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie where Da Vinci painted the fresco.

Noises off-stage continue to blight Paris Opera

PARIS (AFP) — Events off-stage at the troubled Paris Opera are more compelling than those likely to make it to the stage this year. With Korean-born conductor Myung Whun Chung due to conduct his first rehearsals of Verdi's Simon Boccanegra Monday, opera house management stepped in and cancelled the run-through. The executives wanted to make sure there was a "serene climate" and to "respect the legal decision due tomorrow," Christian De Pange, the opera house's general secretary, told AFP.

De Pange sacked Chung on Aug. 12, breaking a contract which made him musical director until the year 2000. Chung went to court and won an order reinstating him and ordering the company to pay him \$50,000 francs (\$39,000) for each day he was kept out of the post.

Quebec separatists steamroll to election victory

MONTREAL (AFP) — Quebec separatists head into the final campaign stretch this week calm and confident that their commanding lead in public opinion polls will be confirmed at the voting stations next Monday.

Analysts agree that the Parti Quebecois (PQ), led by hardline secessionist Jacques Parizeau, is a shoo-in in the race that was expected to end nine years of dominance by the federalist Liberal Party.

The PQ leader is on "automatic pilot" and is cruising towards an easy victory, analysts said here as the campaign entered its final stage.

The only uncertainty surrounding the vote is the scale of the PQ victory, which some analysts predict could claim between 80 to 85 seats in the 125-seat National Assembly.

The separatist party has been leading the Liberals by more than 20 points among French speakers, who make up more than 80 per cent of voters.

The Liberals' support base is spread across some 40 electoral districts in western Montreal that are predominantly Quebec's electoral system which allows for a single-ballot majority vote should also widen the gap between separatist seats in the provincial parliament and federalist gains, analysts say.

Mr. Parizeau, 64, an economics professor who served as finance minister under Parti Quebecois founder Rene Levesque, has already begun discussing plans for what he terms as the "post-September 12" period when his party is expected to form the government.

Mr. Parizeau has said he plans to call a referendum on Quebec independence but most public opinion polls confirm that while a majority of Quebecers want a separatist government, they do not want straight-out secession from Canada.

But Mr. Parizeau, who maintains his lifetime goal has been to achieve independence for Quebec, has waged a cautious campaign, avoiding interviews with the press that could lead to a potential embarrassment.

Under an agreement reached in Montreal in 1987, developed and developing countries agreed to phase out CFCs — chlorofluorocarbons which have been widely used in aerosols and refrigeration systems — by 1999.

Experts believe this was due to the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines in 1991, which released substances increasing ozone's vulnerability to human-made chlorine and bromine.

The layer, which absorbs harmful radiation from the sun but which is increasingly pierced by holes caused by human-produced chemicals, "will be most susceptible around the turn of the century," it added.

The current ozone decrease was occurring at a rate of four to five per cent decade at middle latitudes in the northern and southern hemispheres.

WMO Secretary-General Godwin Ohasi, in a comment on the report, said the document confirmed the precarious state of the ozone layer and he called for continued efforts by all states to halt use of ozone-destroying CFCs and other chemicals.

The report said methyl bromide, naturally produced by oceanic evaporation, had been identified as one of the major threats to ozone. It destroys ozone at a rate 60 per cent of that at which feared CFCs acted.

Three potentially major human sources of methyl bromide had been identified — soil and post-harvest fumigation, the burning of forests and crop stubble, and the exhausts of automobiles using leaded petrol, it said.

Kim Jong-II keeps world guessing about takeover

TOKYO (AFP) — Two months after the death of Kim Il-Sung, signs of the imminent consecration of his son Kim Jong-II as successor are growing, although the political situation in North Korea remains shrouded in mystery.

The death of Pyongyang's "great leader" from a reported heart attack on July 8 took the world by surprise.

Once the funeral services were over on July 20, all eyes turned toward his 52-year-old son, designed since 1974 as successor.

Weeks have now passed with North Korea's heavyweight propaganda machine outlining the "dear leader's" innumerable qualities. Still the official announcement of his elevation has not come, fuelling speculation about why his transition is taking so long.

The scenario now most widely accepted is that Kim Jong-II will respect a 100-day mourning period before being formally named as the leader of North Korea, a country of 22 million people which claims to be a workers' paradise but is totally isolated and economically on the rocks.

Ozone crisis to peak in late 1990s — U.N. agency

GENEVA (R) — Earth's protective ozone layer, which develops holes that are blamed causing some cancers and declining crop yields, could be at its thinnest towards the end of this decade, the U.N. weather agency said Tuesday.

But, in its annual scientific assessment of ozone depletion, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said international action to reduce the gaps should help the layer recover by the middle of the 21st century.

"The peak global ozone depletions are expected to occur during the next few years," said a WMO report based on a study by scientists and ozone specialists from 33 countries.

The layer, which absorbs harmful radiation from the sun but which is increasingly pierced by holes caused by human-produced chemicals, "will be most susceptible around the turn of the century," it added.

The current ozone decrease was occurring at a rate of four to five per cent decade at middle latitudes in the northern and southern hemispheres.

Experts believe this was due to the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in the Philippines in 1991, which released substances increasing ozone's vulnerability to human-made chlorine and bromine.

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Nigeria oil union suspends strike

LAGOS (AFP) — The clandestine leadership of Nigeria's two powerful oil unions, dismissed by the junta, has suspended a strike it called two months ago to press for an end to military rule, its spokesman said.

M.G. Dabiri, spokesman for the PENGASSAN union, told the independent Vanguard newspaper that the union's ousted leaders met in secret Monday and decided to suspend the strike, the daily reported Tuesday.

They also threatened to renew the strike call if the military-led government of General Sani Abacha failed to release recently imprisoned union leaders and meet oil workers' economic demands.

Most oil workers have already gone back to work, according to industry sources, while normal fuel supplies have been restored to the economic capital Lagos, which had been crippled for weeks by the strike that began on July 4.

The dismissed leadership of PENGASSAN

World News

Armed men steal
jewelry worth
\$1.25
from Tiffany's

NEW YORK (AFP) — Armed robbers broke into a New York City jewelry store yesterday and made off with \$1.25 million worth of watches, bracelets and rings, police said. The heist at the Tiffany and Co. store on Fifth Avenue began in the early morning hours with the men wearing ski masks and tied up three security guards and a fourth that arrived later, then made off with 300 pieces of jewelry. Robbers also took surveillance tapes. "They were very professional," police Captain Sal Bla said. Police said employees being questioned to determine whether the robbery was an inside job. An estimate said the jewels were worth \$250,000, but that was revised upward after discussions with Tiffany officials.

**Woman arrested
after child killed
for her eyes**

DHAKA (AFP) — A Bangladeshi woman allegedly led a two-and-a-half-year-old girl and gouged her eyes to sell them on the black market, local police said Monday. Police suspect woman, Bilkis Begum, 27, was member of a well-known organ smuggling network. She was caught Sunday in northern Bangladesh. Crimes are on the increase in Bangladesh because of a growing demand for organs, especially kidney, neighbouring India.

**35 million mark
jackpot finds
no taker**

BONN (AFP) — Millions of Germans and thousands of foreigners groaned with disappointment as a super jackpot of 35 million marks (\$1.5 million) went begging last Friday. She was caught Sunday in northern Bangladesh. Crimes are on the increase in Bangladesh because of a growing demand for organs, especially kidney, neighbouring India.

The new proposals, presented Monday, would increase the number of visas from the 20,000 refugees U.S. delegates last week offered to admit annually. U.S. officials would not reveal the new numbers, but one official described the new offer as "flexible."

Cuba was reported to want 100,000 visas, "claiming that more than 130,000 people had applied. Only 2,200



Cuban rafters sit on the rear deck of the Coast Guard cutter Chandelier in the Florida Straits. The Coast

Guards continue to pick up about one thousand rafters a day (AFP photo)

U.S. gives Cuba new 'flexible' offer on immigration

NEW YORK (R) — The United States has come up with a new proposal on increasing the number of legal immigration visas granted to Cuban refugees in an effort to reach an accord with the Havana government that would stop the flood of boat people.

Clinton administration officials said Cuban negotiators, who have been meeting in a State Department delegation since Thursday, were studying the offer designed to break the impasse in the talks.

The two sides planned to meet again Tuesday for a fifth round, but U.S. spokesman David Johnson said the time and place had not yet been set.

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Cuba was reported to want 100,000 visas, "claiming that more than 130,000 people had applied. Only 2,200

Cubans received visas in the last 12 months.

In turn, the government of President Fidel Castro is expected to stop the uncontrolled flow of migrants trying to reach the United States in rickety vessels and by other means.

So far this year, more than 30,000 people have left Cuba,

most of them in the past month.

Reversing previous U.S. policy, President Bill Clinton has sent them to the U.S. naval base on Guantánamo on the southwestern tip of Cuba.

The new U.S. offer was delivered to Cuban officials by Michael Skol, head of the U.S. delegation in the talks, who spent less than an hour Monday talking to Ricardo Alarcón, a former Cuban foreign minister and head of the Cuban team.

They met alone at Cuba's mission to the United Nations.

"We showed some flexibility," one administration official said. "We tried to look at what they had proposed as well as the materials that we had already put out."

In related developments, By late Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard had pluck-

ed another 1,073 Cubans from rafts and inner tubes in the Florida Straits, compared with 1,179 Sunday. So far in September, the Coast Guard has rescued 5,389 Cubans.

In Havana, Cuba's Foreign Minister Roberto Roaiza told reporters that the talks were "stalled with no positive signals to note."

He chastised the United States for refusing to discuss what he called the root cause for the migration: The 32-year-old trade embargo against the Caribbean island.

Havana wants Washington to fix a date for talks on broader issues that would end the embargo it says is starving its economy. But, U.S. officials say their new and previous proposals are restricted to the migration crisis.

About 250 demonstrators protested outside the Cuban mission Monday, chanting "Cuba si, Castro no," inside the mission, two large speakers blared Latin music down to the crowd to drown out the shouts.

In related developments,

By late Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard had plucked up about one thousand rafters a day (AFP photo)

Rwandan troops gradually take over 'safe zones'

KIGALI (Agencies) — Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government has sent forces into the U.N.-protected "safe zone" in the southwest, home to 1.2 million Hutus fearful of reprisals, the U.N. envoy to the central African state said Tuesday.

Ambassador Shaharyar Khan told reporters units entered the towns of Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Kibuye Tuesday in a gradual takeover of the zone set up by French troops two months ago.

Three liaison officers from the victorious Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army prepared the way. They entered the zone Monday and have been attached to U.N. forces there.

"As of today, platoons (30-strong units) have gone into the main centres (Cyangugu, Gikongoro and Kibuye) of the zone," Mr. Khan, a veteran Pakistani diplomat said.

He added: "They are there mainly to secure sensitive sites and they will also be giving security to important people such as cabinet ministers who will now be moving in more visibly."

Mr. Khan said sensitive sites included radio relay stations, factories, many of which have been looted, and the prefectures, centres of civilian administration.

It was not immediately clear how the Hutu population in the area had reacted to the arrival of RPF troops, who many Hutus fear will make revenge for the killings of an estimated one million people, mainly Tutsis, by Hutu militiamen.

In the countdown to the French pullout last month, fears were expressed of a mass exodus of people from the safe havens to neighbouring Zaire, where hundreds of thousands of Hutus are camped in squalid conditions.

Last month, Mr. Khan told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi that RPF soldiers had committed retribution killings on returning Hutu refugees.

But he said the incidents were without consent of the former rebel movement's general secretary, told AFP Aug. 12, breaking a command which made him a director until the year 2000.

The expert said Zaire was determined to complete the disarmament of 28,000 Rwandan soldiers who are still in uniform and living in units and move them at least 150 kilometres from the border.



A Rwandan woman takes care of her baby at a refugee camp in Bukavu, Zaire. Over a million Rwandans died during the civil war (AFP photo)

Thousands of Rwandan refugees are continuing to flood into Tanzania from eastern Zaire, a U.N. refugee spokeswoman said in Geneva Tuesday.

Officials at the Ngara camp in Tanzania reported 10,000 to 15,000 refugees arriving each week, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said.

In the last month and a half, 110,000 Rwandans have arrived there.

"These people are ill and suffering from malnutrition. They have fled because they feel in danger and have nothing to eat," Ms. Berthiaume said.

Meanwhile, the Zairean government has instructed legal authorities in the town of Goma to start arresting Hutu militiamen caught trying to stop Rwandan refugees returning home, a Zairean government expert said Tuesday.

"It is essential to neutralise those who are making speeches against repatriation in the camps," said the expert, who played a key role in last week's negotiations between Zaire and the new Tutsi-dominated administration in Kigali.

The expert, who asked not to be named, said plans were also underway to provide refugees wishing to leave, who often fall victim to lynch mobs, with armed escorts to the border.

During last week's meeting, which produced little more than commitments by both sides to keep tackling outstanding problems, Zaire and Rwanda set Sept. 30 as a target date for the departure of the more than one million Rwandan refugees on Zairean soil.

Diplomats and aid officials say that with militiamen and former Rwandan soldiers running an efficient intimidation campaign and many refugees apparently settling down for a long stay, the date is unrealistic.

The expert said that soon after Sept. 30 Zairean peasants would want to cultivate their fields and schools were due to reopen after the summer break.

The expert said Zaire was determined to complete the disarmament of 28,000 Rwandan soldiers who are still in uniform and living in units and move them at least 150 kilometres from the border.

Soldier of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev inspect a burning APC of the opposition force in the town of Argun, Chechnya. The presidential forces took complete control of

Argun, 20 kilometres east of the capital, after fierce fighting erupted overnight in the town of 20,000 inhabitants (AFP photo)

Dudayev defiant on Chechenya's 3rd year of 'independence'

GROZNY, Chechenya (AFP) — The leader of the breakaway Russian Republic of Chechenya vowed Tuesday to fight "to the end" for full independence as his forces prepared new attacks against remaining opposition strongholds.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force general, declared independence from the Russian Federation in 1991 and has been a political thorn in Moscow's side ever since.

Relations between Moscow and Grozny took a sharp turn for the worse in recent weeks after the Russian government stepped up verbal attacks against Mr. Dudayev and began backing an opposition government, the "Interim Council," led by Umar Asturkhanov.

"Give us the strength to take our struggle for independence to the end," he cried as the crowd roared its approval and armed followers loosed off several rounds of automatic weapons fire.

The celebrations came two days after Mr. Dudayev loyalists captured the town of Argun, 20 kilometres east of Grozny, from opposition militia.

The capture of Argun late Sunday came as a much-needed victory to the Chechen leader, whose people are growing impatient with the economic hardships brought about by the breach with Russia.

The situation here is like that is why we support Chechenya's independence," said one of the deputies, Algirdas Patacas.

Tension mounts in Bosnia as attacks on U.N. rise

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Serb and Muslim forces have stepped up attacks on U.N. forces, the U.N. said Tuesday, escalating tensions in the Bosnian capital less than two days before a planned historic visit by Pope John Paul II.

Meanwhile in Zagreb a U.N. spokesman said the Vatican would decide Tuesday afternoon if the Pontiff's one-day trip will go ahead.

The attacks, branded "provocations" by the U.N. officials here, came amid increased fears for the Pope's safety during Thursday's visit, and after warning Monday from the top U.N. commander in ex-Yugoslavia, General Bertrand De Lapresle, that he could not absolutely guarantee his security.

Observers here have interpreted U.N. comments on security, and its decision to go public over the airport attack, as part of a campaign to convince the Vatican that the security threat comes from both sides and that the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) cannot provide cast iron guarantees.

Announcing the Vatican's imminent decision, Michael Williams, spokesman for Yasushi Akashi, U.N. special envoy to former Yugoslavia, said in Zagreb that UNPROFOR had told the Pope of its extreme concern over his safety.

"Different gunmen from the two (warring) parties fired in the air during aircraft movements," for the first time since Sept. 1, he said.

Although the airport has been placed on green alert it remains open to military and civilian flights.

Japan opposition to unite behind reform platform

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's opposition, currently a tangle of parties and factions, said Tuesday it plans to unite behind a reform platform that calls for cutting back on overgrown bureaucracy and overhauling the country's "warped" convention.

Seizing Mr. Murayama's staying power, rival kingmakers Ichiro Ozawa quickly moved to sew up the differences in the opposition.

He insisted that they all needed to unite into a single party to

fight the LDP under a new election system, which makes it difficult for small parties to win seats in parliament.

The decision accelerates the trend in Japan toward a system of two or three major parties as in Britain or Germany. And it could threaten Prime Minister Tomiochi Murayama if the alliance is successful in painting him as the leader of a corrupt old guard.

On Tuesday, all the opposition parties, excluding the small Communist Party, officially launched discussions on when they should unite as a single party. The day before, they announced the new party's basic principles.

Commentators warned that the planned alliance could still break down as

Ozawa, are themselves former Liberal Democrats.

The opposition groups are portraying themselves as the true reformers, saying the 70-year-old Murayama is part of the old guard that seeks to protect inefficient Japanese industries and an overgrown bureaucracy.

The key players of the old... system have openly joined hands to preserve existing interests. The current administration is desperate to stay in power, even if it means postponing what must be done," said an opposition leader.

If Mr. Ozawa's party is able to get off the ground, it will greatly simplify Japan's political structure into two major groups: The current government vs. the new party.

What is less clear is how the two groups will distinguish themselves from each other on issues, especially since most of the key opposition leaders, including Mr.

It also called for reform of Japan's rigid educational system, whose competitive exams, it said, "tend to produce warped, monolithic people."

The anti-Murayama alliance said it wants to "shatter the reliance of politicians on bureaucrats" and promote deregulation, something U.S. officials have demanded as a way of helping American products in Japan.

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Opinion & Analysis

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Balance is key word

AS THE Cairo U.N. Conference on Population and Development heads for more and more compromises on most of the controversial issues dividing the conferees, the international community should not lose sight of the fact that the dangerous growth of world population needs to be checked and controlled. There is little doubt that if the population of this small planet continues at the rate it has been doing over the past century, the moment will come when there is not enough resources or room for people to live a decent life free of crime, social and economic problems and above all, armed conflicts. It is estimated that the inhabitants of Earth would explode to double the existing number of more than 5 billions to 10 billions, in less than half a century. This means that an enormous number of people would be competing for space, raw material and economic, social and political opportunities. If this does not mean more and more conflicts and human-made disasters, we do not know what does. Since there is a consensus on this proposition and what remains is how to attain a balanced world population to a level that is viable in every sense of the word. We can understand and sympathise with religions, traditions and cultures that are opposed to abortion as a means to attain the ultimate objective of a controlled growth in world population. We can also appreciate the reservations of many countries about premature sex education for fear that that would encourage child sex. Even the qualms about birth control methods can also be recognised as promiscuity is encouraged. Yet the 160 odd participating countries must not forget the urgent need to do something about curbing a population explosion that is nothing short of a time bomb ticking away. As Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated in her maiden speech to the conference Monday, there is a dream that we all share, a dream of "a Pakistan, an Asia, a world where every pregnancy is planned, where every child is nurtured, loved and educated."

This is then the gist of the issue: how to have a sensible parental planning for child-bearing without the need for abortion which admittedly touches upon religious sensitivities among Christians and Muslims alike. We believe this goal can still be met by the Cairo meeting provided the central issue of most concern to us is kept in focus at all times.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE ROYAL Commission for Modernisation and Development set up by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, last month faces a serious responsibility at the national level because it has to handle challenges that faced the nation for so long and to provide remedies for so many miseries, according to Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The paper said that this commission is facing its tasks at a time when Jordan is involved in arduous negotiations with Israel that continues to occupy Arab land and which has the upper hand in economy and military power. At the domestic front the Royal Commission is expected to help the Kingdom, now beset by poverty, unemployment and foreign debts, to rise again and overcome the hardships with the available meagre resources, added the paper. It said that while the country's population annually increases at the rate of 3.4 per cent, the economic growth is declining and this requires huge and concentrated efforts to attract investors for economic schemes. The paper called on all sectors to back the Royal Commission's efforts.

COMMENTING on obvious signs about a resumption of normal ties between Jordan on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other, Al Dustour daily Tuesday said that Jordan has always sought good relations with the Arab states before and after the Gulf crisis, which soured these relations. While Jordan is involved in the peace process and while the Arab Nation is standing at a cross roads and facing rapid moving events, Jordan is hopeful that its ties with all Arab countries would be strengthened and solidarity among Arab states reestablished, said the

representatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Saudi and Qatar and Oman have praised Jordan's efforts towards reconciliation and towards opening a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, and therefore it is quite natural for Jordan to see relations improving between Jordan and the other GCC members, said the paper. It is also natural for Jordan, added the paper, to feel optimistic about the future and about the resumption of normal ties among Arab brothers who have similar aspirations and face a common destiny.

By Pascal B. Karmy

IN THE exchange of letters on Sept. 9 last year between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the former stated, inter alia, that the "PLO affirms that those articles of the Palestine National Covenant which deny Israel a right to exist, and the provisions of the covenant which are inconsistent with the commitments of this letter are now inoperative and longer valid.

Consequently the PLO undertakes to submit to the Palestine National Council for formal approval the necessary changes in regard to the Palestinian covenant.

Thus, only the Palestinian National Council (PNC) has the power or jurisdiction to amend or abolish the relevant articles of the covenant. And it is to be observed that no specific date has been fixed for the carrying out of this undertaking.

It may be remembered that the Palestinian covenant was drawn up in 1964 when the late Ahmad Shukairy was chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). In effect, credit should mainly go to Mr. Shukairy, establishing the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people.

At that time Palestinians aimed at regaining their entire homeland, Palestine, from which they were brutally expelled and in which Jews from the four corners of the world came to replace them. Consequently, the Palestinian covenant stipulated in essence for the resurgence of one unitary democratic Palestine state in which Jews, Muslims and Christians live together in peace and harmony with equal rights for all its citizens without dominance of one community or ethnic group over the other.

Specifically Articles 15 and 22 of the covenant provide for the liquidation of the Zionist and imperialistic existence in Palestine. Article 19 declares that the partition of Palestine in 1947 and the creation of the state of Israel are void ab initio. I may digress here to note that most of the recognised international law jurists agree that the United Nations had no competence or jurisdiction to partition Palestine.

With regard to the amendment of the covenant, it is provided that it may be amended by two-thirds of the members of the Palestine National Council. Only Jews of Palestinian origin were considered by the covenant to be Palestinian citizens. Since then, however, such limitation was abandoned and became obsolete. In his speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Nov. 13, 1974, Mr. Arafat declared that "when we speak of our common hopes for the Palestine of tomorrow we include in our perspective all Jews now living in Palestine who choose to live with us without discrimination."

In 1988, Yasser Arafat declared in Geneva that the provisions of the Palestinian covenant about the elimination of Israel and its replacement by a Palestine

state were "caducus" that is obsolete and non-enforceable and he also accepted United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and specifically recognised the existence of the state of Israel. Lastly came the exchange of letters referred to above between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin. The latter recognised the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Many of the members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) living outside the territory which is under the Palestine self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho or outside the West Bank (most of whom are living in Jordan, Syria or Lebanon) have already expressed their refusal to attend a meeting of the PNC in Gaza or in Jericho under the shadow of Israel's hegemony although Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stated that Israel will allow them to enter Gaza or Jericho but that some of them will have to go back from where they came. This is obviously humiliating to

the Palestinians and will not be accepted by them. It seems, therefore, that the present most suitable place for the PNC meeting is Tunis.

Consequently, it would be advisable that the convening of the meeting of the PNC and subsequent amendment of the Palestinian covenant should not take place until the following conditions are fulfilled:

1- The Palestine National Authority has been extended to englobe effectively all the Palestinian territories namely, Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This is more appropriate and dignified for the Palestinians.

2- The Israel army has withdrawn from the above-mentioned territories.

3- All Palestinian prisoners have been released from Israeli jails.

4- Elections have taken place which are scheduled to take place on December 15, 1994. The elections will enable 180 members from the Palestinian territory to be admitted to the PNC. In

effect this is the number of members whose names were hidden from the Israeli occupying authorities for fear of reprisal against them prior to the Oslo accord of September 1993.

Yasser Arafat and his advisors should stand firm vis-a-vis the Israeli authorities with regard to the just Palestinian claims. Israeli negotiator is known to be stubborn and crafty and should be met likewise by the Palestinian negotiator.

Sometimes the Israeli negotiator builds castles in the air for the Palestinian or Arab negotiator such as grandiose projects or programmes in the future but a fact concedes almost nothing on the ground. Inspite of their weak position, Palestinians have still a lot of assets in their favour which if skilfully dealt with or used will enable them to attain real independence from Israel and ultimately declare their own independent state to which they are rightfully entitled as any other nation in the world.

Lebanon should move to make peace on its own

By Fida Nasrallah

JULY 25, Jordan formally ended its state of war with Israel by signing the Washington Declaration. The net result of that declaration is that Lebanon and Syria remain the sole Arab confrontation states in a state of war with Israel. There are enough signals to indicate that Syria is seriously interested in achieving a breakthrough with Israel. But in the meantime Lebanon sits idly by, awaiting a regional settlement which it is doing virtually nothing to promote. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher flies to and from the Middle East with neither the inclination nor, indeed, the need to visit Beirut.

Lebanon's policy in its negotiations with Israel has, if anything, gone three steps backwards. Initially, the Lebanese position was predicated on the following premises: Lebanon was willing to sign any agreement with Israel — short of a peace treaty — that was based on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425; Lebanon rejected any linkage with Security Council Resolutions 251 and 338; and Lebanon would not wait until progress was made by the other Arab parties in their own negotiations with Israel.

In contrast, Lebanon's official position today, articulated with increasing vigour since the signing of the Declaration of Principles between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has shifted to concentrate on a policy of total coordination with Syria. Lebanon will only move forward if Syria moves forward; it will freeze its negotiations with Israel if Syria freezes its own negotiations; and it will withdraw from the negotiations altogether if Syria decides to withdraw from the negotiations with Israel.

This reversal of Lebanon's position could very well herald a reversal of fortune. The Lebanese government has now boxed itself into a corner whereby it has publicly linked its own unambiguous United Nations Resolution 425 to U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338. This emphasis on total coordination, a policy zealously adopted after most of the other Arab parties had decided to go their separate ways, cannot possibly be in Lebanon's interest. If it goes much further, the Lebanese government will "coordinate" itself into redundancy and the country into virtual oblivion.

Syria demands total coordination

One indication pointing in this direction can be gleaned from the statements of Farouk Al Shar'a, the Syrian foreign minister. During his visit to Beirut in August, the aim of which was to brief the Lebanese government on the results of Warren Christopher's visit, Mr. Al



Shara indicated that Syria would not look with disfavour upon the establishment of a joint Lebanon-Syrian negotiation team — even if the team were under the presidency of a Lebanese Mr. Al Shara. He stressed that Lebanon and Syria's interests are so intertwined that it is not possible for one country to negotiate separately from the other. But is this actually true? Are Lebanon's interests identical to those of Damascus and is "coordination" necessarily in Lebanon's interest? For Lebanon, the case for such a policy is far from clear.

Indeed, the incompatibility between Lebanese and Syrian interests is best illustrated by reference to the events of last summer. In July 1993, following Israel's vicious onslaught on southern Lebanon, the Lebanese government had decided to deploy about 3,000 members of the Lebanese army to police the south without prior "coordination" with Damascus. Syrian intervention was swift and deployment was curtailed to merely 300 Lebanese troops in order to ensure that the Lebanese army would not succeed in imposing stability. Adding insult to injury, Damascus rebuked the Lebanese government and accused it of "falling into the Israeli trap" and "succumbing to Israeli demands."

But the real reason behind Syria's fury was the fact that a sizeable deployment of the Lebanese army

southwards, with a mandate to impose security, would constitute the beginning of a virtual implementation of Security Council Resolution 426. This, in turn, could pave the way for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon prior to any agreement over the Golan Heights.

What that meant in practice was that Syria would have been denied the chance of negotiating the Lebanese portfolio. In other words, Syria would have been denied the chance to negotiate a deal over Lebanon with Israel that would guarantee Damascus permanent security rights in Lebanon.

Hence lies the danger of total coordination. Seen in this light, coordinated negotiations for a final settlement are liable to be at Lebanon's expense. They are liable to result in Damascus "delivering" the south back to Lebanon for a price. For Lebanon, that price would be a total and permanent abdication of any say in its own foreign, defence and domestic policy. So if the Lebanese government is at all concerned in its country's self-interest, then it must realise that a coordinated policy is not the proper way to achieve this result. It is possible for Lebanon, if it so desires, to move forward on its own.

Circumstances have changed since the summer of 1993 and the Palestinians and Jordanians have given up on the benefits of a

coordinated Arab strategy. The Lebanese can start to move ahead independently instead of waiting for Damascus to negotiate away their rights.

Israel cannot be driven out

The central theme of Israel's demands from Lebanon has been that the armed activities of the Lebanese resistance against Israeli targets and their proxies in the so-called "security zone" must be curtailed before it will quit the south. Yet the Lebanese government continues to declare its public support for the Lebanese resistance, composed mainly of members of Hizbullah, on the basis of the principle that the armed activities of the Lebanese resistance against Israeli targets and their proxies in the so-called "security zone" must be curtailed before it will quit the south. Yet the Lebanese government continues to declare its public support for the Lebanese resistance, composed mainly of members of Hizbullah, on the basis of the principle that the armed activities of the Lebanese resistance against Israeli targets and their proxies in the so-called "security zone" must be curtailed before it will quit the south.

Thus if the moral legitimacy of resisting the occupation is questioned, the results of this strategy on the unfortunate Lebanese victims is at best dubious. So if there is a trade-off between the principle of armed resistance and the principle of liberation, then surely the latter must be paramount.

The way forward

In order to move ahead, the Lebanese government must declare its willingness to halve Hizbullah's military activities in southern Lebanon and return attacks against its civilian population. This will nullify Hizbullah's military raison d'être. It is useful to recall that it is precisely Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon that led to the creation of Hizbullah in the first place.

Logically, if Israel is solely motivated by reasons of security, then it must realise that its continued occupation of southern Lebanon is not the proper way to guarantee that security. To speak of an independent Lebanese position is

not naive. To say that the Lebanese government has no sway over Hizbullah, since the latter is at the beck and call of powers outside Beirut — namely Syria and Iran — is to mis-understand much of the nature of Hizbullah as an operator on the Lebanese domestic scene and to underestimate its strained relations with Iran. To believe that the Lebanese army is incapable of cracking down on Hizbullah is to overestimate Hizbullah's military power and to minimise the capabilities to the Lebanese army. The Lebanese government can convince Hizbullah that an alternative policy to armed resistance is called for, given that it has clearly failed.

Hizbullah can be an important issue about the post-cold war situation. The principles that should guide Lebanon's foreign policy are those that might be adopted.

The principles of the Clinton administration are in fact sensible and responsible. The basic issue is how to maintain a balance between the trans-Atlantic relationship and the European Union and in the situation in Central and Eastern Europe, in Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

Some of us can be certain that Russia's evolution will take place. Some expect it to become a large and powerful member of a configuration of order, others a junior and expansionist state.

The writer is a research associate at the Centre for Lebanese Studies, Oxford. The article is reprinted from *Middle East International*.

Angolan

By Chola Chimhanda

Illustration

Photo

Caption

Text

Image

Caption

Features

Lebanon

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have taken scheduled December elections will members from territory to the PNC. In

on its own

Happiness and women's health create NGO buzz

By Mona Eltahawy
Reuter

CAIRO — Pro-choice and pro-life groups preached their own brands of gospel at an "alternative population" conference by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) on Monday.

"We've decided to stay put because it's very good to present our arguments in a logical plausible way and they will see that we are sensible human beings and we really worry a lot about maternal and child health as they are sure," Ms. Perrow said.

"I hope that whether it be us or the right to life federation, we do have one thing in common — we would like to see the number of abortions drop."

Groups from India to the United States set up booths in the Cairo stadium's covered hall to display brochures and posters promoting everything from natural family planning to the kundalini yoga path to health and happiness.

Booth 24 — the mucus pattern of fertility and infertility booth — was an eye catcher.

Representatives there waxed lyrical about the billings ovulation method of family planning developed by Australian doctors. It teaches couples to monitor a woman's fertility by checking the consistency of vaginal mucus.

The Roman Catholic Church approves the billings method, in which a couple abstain from intercourse during a woman's fertile period.

"Lovers welcome their (billings') gift as their sexual intercourse can now be pleasurable, normal and complete, without the need of expense of condoms, spermicides or barriers," a brochure said.

Nowhere was the contrast greater than at booths 93 and 94.

Representatives from Marie Stopes International, a pro-abortion group, found themselves next door to the International Right to Life Group.

"The two stands next to each other encapsulates a lot of what the population

booths preached a simple message — happiness for all.

Representatives from the Happy Healthy Holy Organisation (3HO), non-profit Indian group dedicated to advancement of the individual through health, education and religion.

As visitors crowded around the 3HO men and women, their white turbans, loose shirts and baggy trousers explained their Sikh way of life.

"We still need inner happiness and contentment. Everyone is here to try and make everything better. We feel very sad for some people who don't have a chance to be happy in life," said Sat Nam Kalsia, a spiritual healer.

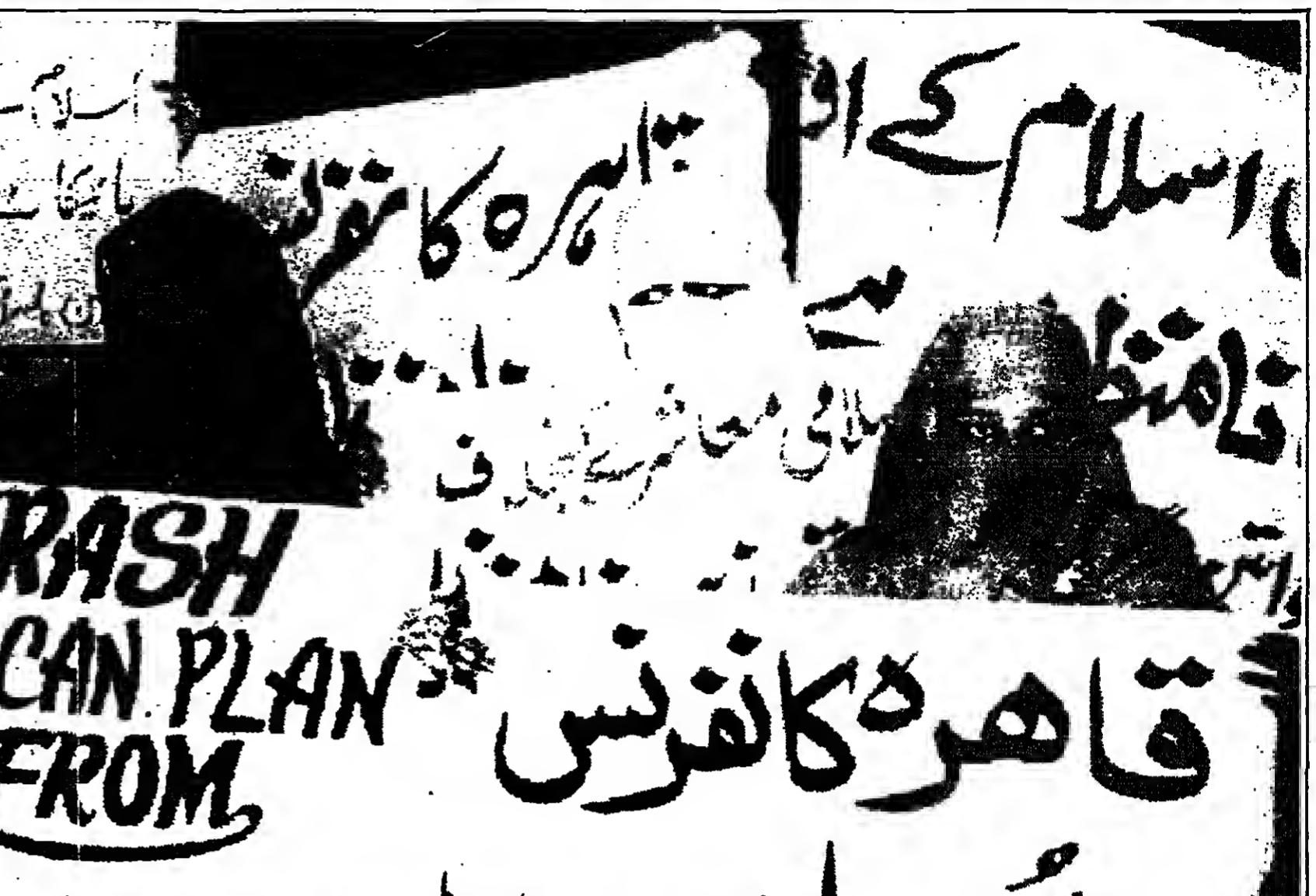
Accepting mothers... dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions and unwanted children," she said.

"No to the suspicious conference," Al Shabab, published by the Labour Party, said in a banner headline.

The paper juxtaposed pictures of homosexuals, saying the conference recognises their lifestyle, with one of a young girl in an Islamic headdress, captioned "our future generations have no right to live... so they say."

"Despite the overwhelming anger, the confrontations, protests and boycotts, the suspicious conference began in the city of Cairo, the land of the holy Al Azhar."

"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means



Veiled women from the Women's Islamic Mission, a small Pakistani right-wing organisation, protest Sunday against the U.N. population conference in Cairo (AFP photo)

Islamists up in arms over U.N. conference

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian Islamists laid into the U.N. conference on population in Cairo on Tuesday, saying the first day confirmed their worst fears by advocating indecency, extramarital sex and legal abortion.

The Islamist newspaper Al Shabab led with a ferocious attack on Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, saying she made "a disgusting and obscene assault on religion and morals."

Ms. Brundtland said on Monday abortion should be decriminalised and she accused religious opponents of hypocrisy.

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accepting mothers... dying in connection with unwanted pregnancies and illegal abortions and unwanted children," she said.

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"Morality becomes hypocrisy if it means

"On this pure land, delegates poured from different states hailing promiscuity, calling for abortion and extramarital sex and pointing to an era with no morals, where all values are trampled underfoot," it said.

Al Ahrar, another Islamist newspaper, said: "Cairo did not need this conference, which is discussing premarital sex, homosexual rights and abortion and which undermines its already diminished role in the Arab and Islamic World."

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Al Shabab said the aim of the conference was to "destroy our religion, kill our values, break up our families and introduce unacceptable behaviour into our society."

It said the non-governmental organisations at the conference preached promiscuity and prostitution.

Other Islamists said the conference was a Western ploy to stop the world's Muslims from breeding.

"I want to clarify to the reader the following realities to the West and foremost America. America hates the increasing numbers of Muslims, working on reducing their numbers and on annihilating them in whatever way possible," said Mahmoud Hamaya,

head of the Islamic movement Al Da'awa.

"This is why they are thinking of means to stop this impending danger — the growth of Muslims. When American presents aid for some countries for family planning they do not that out of love but because limiting our population serves the aims of Western Zionist imperialism," he added.

Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali, a prominent Muslim cleric, attacked the Western liberal way of life, saying lust and instincts controlled peoples' lives.

"Men are (fulfilled) sexually with men and women with women... definitely there will be reduction in births after these traditions are enforced," he added.

Angolan talks hit snag but derailment unlikely

By Chola Chimbanzo
Reuter

promise to end an impasse over who will govern Huambo province.

The government has been cool towards UNITA's proposal that the Lunda administration be allowed to name the governor of Huambo if rebels make it unlikely they will collapse.

UNITA last week boycotted the 10-month-old U.N.-mediated talks in the Zambian capital Luanda after a government bombing raid on the rebels' central highlands headquarters, Huambo.

Diplomats said UNITA could use the strike, which by some estimates killed four people and according to others killed 28, to reverse the offer of a com-

promise to end an impasse over who will govern Huambo province.

"One can't be overly optimistic about Angola but we remain cautiously optimistic that for the first time they (UNITA) will feel disadvantaged and take the offer for peace."

UNITA seems to respond to threats of U.N. sanctions.

A ban imposed by the Security Council a year ago on arms and fuel sales forced UNITA back to the negotiating table.

Threats of further sanctions if no progress was made by the end of August seemed to have pushed Jonas Savimbi's rebels to stand down on its past refusal to allow the government on offer.

The two foes agreed last December that UNITA would disarm before taking up the administrative positions on offer.

These included four ministerial, seven deputy ministerial, six ambassadorial and three provincial governors.

UNITA, which has been fighting nearly continuously since the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) seized power after 1975 independence from Angola, has been largely blamed for the breakdown of brief-lived 1991 peace accords.

But they are sceptical about the political will on both sides after decades of hatred and distrust.

The talks are nearing conclusion. The government's action takes away the little political will by either side to see this peace process through," an African diplomat said.

"Angolans should learn a lesson from what happened in Somalia.... The U.N. will only go so far in trying to help. If the political will is not there, they will pull out."



Dzhokhar Dudayev

A thorn in Moscow's side

Agence France Presse
MOSCOW — In the

three years since a landslide poll victory carried him to the presidency of the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya, Dzhokhar Dudayev has made himself the king of resistance to "Russian imperialism."

Galvanising his troops to resist an onslaught by opposition soldiers backed by Moscow, Mr. Dudayev is adamant that he will be removed only by force.

So far all attempts to do so have failed — he has survived three assassination attempts and two abortive coups.

Born in 1944 in a small mountain village, Dzhokhar Dudayev — his Chechen name — was brought up in Kazakhstan, a victim of the forced removals former Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered to punish the Chechen people for their supposed collaboration with the Nazis in World War II.

A graduate of flying school and a member of the Soviet Communist Party, Mr. Dudayev became a career soldier in the Red Army, where he rose through the ranks to become the first and last Soviet general of Chechen capital.

A month later, Mr. Dudayev was elected Chechen president with 85 per cent of the votes cast, and on Nov. 1 he proclaimed independence for Chechnya.

When Russia rejected the independence declaration and imposed a state of emergency, Mr. Dudayev responded by calling on Chechens to mount a terrorist campaign against Russian interests.

Mr. Dudayev says he is a practising Muslim, although he admits he is not too sure of the difference between Sunnis and Shiites.

Europe: A sound U.S. policy of initiative and insurance

By Harold Brown

WASHINGTON — Henry Kissinger, among others, has argued that Clinton administration policies are eroding the Atlantic alliance and turning NATO into an empty shell. This is wrong, but it does raise important issues about the altered security landscape in post-cold war Europe, the principles that should guide U.S. policy there and what alternative policies might be adopted.

The principles of the Clinton administration are in fact sensible, and its policies have worked rather well. The basic issue in Europe is how to maintain, adapt, and augment the essential institutions of trans-Atlantic security — most of all NATO but also the European Union and its neighbors — to the changed situation in Central and Eastern Europe, in Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

Changing the means of resistance is called for, given that it has clearly failed. Hizbullah can be persuaded to declare a ceasefire as a quid pro quo for a timetable for withdrawal.

The principles of the Clinton administration are in fact sensible, and its policies have worked rather well. The basic issue in Europe is how to maintain, adapt, and augment the essential institutions of trans-Atlantic security — most of all NATO but also the European Union and its neighbors — to the changed situation in Central and Eastern Europe, in Russia and the other states of the former Soviet Union.

Expansion was no longer a question of whether but of when and how.

Those who argue that the when and how are full and immediate NATO membership should say for which nations those conditions apply. And they should explain their confidence that the U.S. Congress, the parliaments of the 15 other NATO members and the NATO publics are prepared to extend credible guarantees to the newcomers that an attack on one is an attack on all.

They should also explain what effect the drawing of such a line would have on the relationships between Russia and the other nations on the far side of that line.

NATO membership should not be automatic for any country. Democracy, a market economic system and a responsible security policy are appropriate criteria. How and when to expand, how to expand to new partners and nonmember partners through and beyond a transition will need to be worked out in the context of events. That context will include the economic relationship of Central Europe

down payment of resources to support the cooption of NATO and partner militaries.

Both initiative and insurance are evidenced by U.S. cooperation in strengthening the European pillar of NATO in the form of the Western European Union and of the Eurocorps.

And two U.S. initiatives during the past 18 months — joining with Russia in converting fissile material from weapons in Russia and Ukraine to peaceful uses, and encouraging Russian participation at Group of Seven meetings — are examples of incentives for Russia to choose a cooperative path, including membership in the Partnership for Peace.

On the central issue of trans-Atlantic and European security, the Clinton administration has done quite well; it need not apologize to its predecessors or to the American people.

The writer, defence secretary in the Carter administration, is a partner in a venture banking firm. This article is reprinted from the Washington Post.

Business & Finance

report says

Hungary and Brazil, among others, were in 37th place, and the world's fifth largest industrialised nation.

In labour costs, the United States four times more expensive than East Asia, bad an increasingly educated force.

Although returns on investment and Russia were included for the first time, neither was placed in the top 50 because their economic and statistical systems are still in transition.

to curb poverty

health care for \$8 per person and giving more to start up a fr. Preston

bank had \$2 billion

planning yes, which we wish to see more or less from donor countries," he said.

y in sight

according to Western observers, as Armenians have fared around the issues of blockade and the war in Karabakh.

But exhausted by the fighting and the lack of any real improvement in its lives since independence, that solidarity is wearing thin.

OROSCOPE

R. WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 1994
Astrologer, Carroll Righter Founder

NOTES: You have the urge to make changes so do constructively by combining new present conditions that are working toward.

April 19) Talk over your future with a friend later. You have a new aim which needs to be met.

May 20) Come to the right decision this morning. Make that new contact of work to you.

June 21) Complete business matters in the look into new interests after lunch. Make travel.

June 22 to July 21) State your plans clearly and stand them and will cooperate. Be on the alert.

July 21) Get to work and meet with associates. Instructive talk with a fellow associate who is project.

September 22) Get some special tasks to please your mate before stepping out with good cameraderie.

October 22) A situation at home so take care of it early. Handle any crisis of complete attention.

November 21) Handle outside affairs accurately. Entertain guests at home in the best all is in order there.

December 22 to December 21) Handle routine, solve that problem which has been vexing. Go visiting in the evening.

January 22 to January 20) Take care of personal money problems in a unique way. Don't let

February 19) Formulate a plan for going through with them speedily. Take a

March 20) Handle business affairs in the be with admirers later. Don't leave anything completed.

Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Financial Markets in co-operation with **Cairo Amman Bank**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets			
Currency	Head/ask	Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound*	1.5475	1.5452	1.5454
Deutsche Mark	1.5550	1.5520	1.5520
Swiss Franc	1.3065	1.3040	1.3040
French Franc	5.3255	5.2927 **	5.2927 **
Japanese Yen	99.73	98.83	98.83
European Currency Unit	1.2275	1.2333	1.2333

*USD per STU
**European Opening & 10 AM. UNIT

Interbank bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Dates: 6/9/94

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6950	0.6970
Sterling Pound	1.07828	1.0782
Deutsche Mark	0.4472	0.4494
Swiss Franc	0.5321	0.5348
French Franc	0.1305	0.1312
Japanese Yen*	0.7071	0.7046
Dutch Guilder	0.3987	0.4007
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira*	0.0444	0.0442
Belgian Franc	---	---

*For its

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.7860	0.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
Greek Drachma*	0.2725	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	0.3975	0.4985

*For its

Dates: 6/9/94

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8270	1.8400
Lebanese Lira*	0.040885	0.041995
Saudi Riyal	0.18503	0.18600
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3480
Qatari Riyal	0.1897	0.1909
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	0.7860	0.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1886	0.1896
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Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Arab Banking Corp. moves to calm U.S. on Libya link

DUBAI (R) — Bahrain's beleaguered Arab Banking Corp. BSC (ABC), is appointing a leading Saudi banker as its new chief to replace a Libyan who fell foul of U.S. authorities, banking sources said.

And the Libyan stake in the Arab World's biggest bank, in terms of assets, was being placed in a trust with the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) to avoid any further problems with the U.S. authorities, the sources said.

The problems stem from U.S. measures to force Libya to hand over for trial two suspects wanted in the 1988 sabotage of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has frozen U.S. assets of Libyan banks and prohibited banks in the United States from dealing with them. If ABC had been deemed Libyan for these purposes, it would have been

largely doomed.

Libya does not exercise majority control but its influence had so far been substantial.

The governments of Libya, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi each hold about one quarter of the shares in ABC. Libya also has three of the 12 board members and Libyan Abdulah Saudi served as president, chief executive and deputy chairman of the bank since it was set up in 1980.

The flamboyant Saudi, largely credited with ABC's success so far, stepped down as president and chief executive effective May 1 to help avoid OFAC sanctions.

The bank has now selected Ahmad Abdul Latif, managing director of Riyad Bank, Saudi Arabia's second largest, to replace him, the bankers said.

A bank spokesman could not confirm the appointment, but bankers said an ABC board meeting next week was

expected to formally approve the choice.

Many in the bank and in Bahrain were angered that the United States should try to meddle in the running of a Middle East bank. But given that fact, ABC employees said they were eager for someone to fill the void left by Mr. Saudi.

The move to put the Libyan shares in trust with the BMA — giving it Libya's proxy — was similarly designed to reduce Libyan control and meet OFAC goals.

"I think they're satisfied with some of the measures... take so far," one banking source said.

Among the solutions that

had been bandied about were for Libya to sell some or all of its stake. But the sources said the Libyans had displayed no eagerness to do that and in any case sanctions would have made it difficult for Libya to receive payment for such sale.

If yet no action had been taken and U.S. sanctions were applied, the bank could have been seriously run down — leaving Libya with a stake that was virtually worthless.

ABC had been able to judge OFAC measures at first-hand at the turn of the year when the U.S. assets of Arab Financial Services — a Bahrain company which specialised in issuing travellers

cheques in which ABC had a stake — were frozen.

The company was virtually paralysed until the measure was reversed.

While some in ABC had been pushing for chief operating officer Mike Murad, a Syrian-born American, to replace Mr. Abdul Latif might well bear dividends in improving ABC's business opportunities in Saudi Arabia, bankers said.

"That is obviously the market in the Middle East," one commented.

Mr. Abdul Latif, 59, served as deputy governor of the Saudi Monetary Agency (central bank) and is well-

connected in the kingdom. One banker said his familiarity with the United States will also serve him well in relations with OFAC.

His starting date was not certain, though one source said he had been told Mr. Abdul Latif would start on Feb. 1.

An interim committee run by deputy chairman Khalifa Al Muhammed of Abu Dhabi has been in charge in Saudi's absence.

The board meeting was likely to confirm Mr. Murad officially as the number two to the bank and he will effectively run the institution until Mr. Abdul Latif takes over, a source said.

New markets opening up for S. Africa beer

JOHANNESBURG (R) — New markets are opening up for brewing giant South African Breweries (SAB) after its beer was officially spurned by many countries during the apartheid era.

"What's going to help us is the political situation. Now we have become more internationally acceptable we are finding new markets where its lagers were pitched against long-established competitors such as Fosters and Heineken.

Despite U.N. sanctions in force against then-apartheid South Africa, SAB launched its exports drive into black Africa at a time

market over-traded.

"We are showing some growth over last year, and things look very promising on the export side," said Mr. Botha, adding, however, that exports accounted for only one per cent of total production.

SAB, through subsidiaries including Netherlands-based Indo International B.V., has breweries in the Cayman Islands and Hungary, and Zambia, where its operations were nationalised by the past government of Kenneth Kaunda.

It also has shareholdings in Zimbabwe breweries and links with breweries in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Tanzania, where SAB was involved in a 100 million rand (\$27 million) joint venture, was considered a springboard into the rest of Africa by the brewer which views the African market as its own.

South African breweries export three locally-brewed lagers: castle, marketed as the taste that stood the test of time, Lion, born and brewed in Africa, and Ohlsson's, well-fermented for extra enjoyment.

Mr. Botha said SAB was building on a small niche market in Britain but considered the western European

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs

Canadian dollar

Dutch guilder

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

Italian lire

Japanese yen

Swedish kronas

Norwegian kronas

Danish kronas

One sterling

One ounce of gold

U.S. \$1.00 costs

Canadian dollar

Dutch guilder

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

Two world records smashed at World Swimming Championships

ROME (Agencies) — Germany's Franziska Almsiek, who only made the final when countrywoman Dagmar Hase withdrew, set a world record 1 minute 56.78 seconds for the women's 200 metres freestyle at the World Swimming Championships Tuesday, beating Heike Friedrich's eight-year-old record.

Also Tuesday, American Tom Dolan broke the men's 400m individual medley world record to claim the United States its first gold of the championships.

This raises to three the number of new world records set at the championships. On Monday, Le Jingyi of China broke the 100m freestyle record.

Another Chinese swimmer, Lu Bin, appeared on course to break the 200 mark, turning in the lead after three lengths well inside world record pace.

But Van Almsiek, who placed ninth in qualifying and only made the final because Hase was withdrawn by the German team, produced a powerful last length surge to

overtake the Chinese swimmer and touch first.

Van Almsiek won bronze in the 100m freestyle relay and also collected a silver in the 800m freestyle relay.

Lu, also silver medallist in the 100 metres in a time inside the previous world record, clocked 1:56.89 and that also would have beaten Friedrich's time.

Costa Rica's Claudia Poll, who was fastest qualifier for the final, collected the bronze in 1:57.61.

Dolan's swim, set minutes after Van Almsiek's set the

new women's 200 freestyle mark, shaved six hundredths of a second of the previous record set by Hungary's Tamara Darnyi three years ago at the previous championships in Perth.

The American led the field after a strong third, breaststroke leg in a battle with countryman Eric Namesnik and Finland's Jani Sievinen. Dolan's breaststroke brought the record within range and he moved further ahead on the final, freestyle leg to touch well clear of his rivals.

Jingyi's devastating swim to smash the 100m freestyle world record capped a Chinese sweep of the first three women's golds on offer on Monday night.

Olympic and world championship runner-up, this time taking bronze.

Sievinen clocked 4:13.29 and Namesnik 4:15.69.

Meanwhile, China's phenomenal start in the women's swimming at the world championships has been greeted with widespread cynicism among their rivals.

Jingyi's devastating swim to smash the 100m freestyle world record capped a Chinese sweep of the first three women's golds on offer on Monday night.

Talks held to discuss American baseball season

NEW YORK (AP) — With

four days left until the deadline for cancelling the American baseball season, Acting Commissioner Bud Selig met secretly Monday with labour secretary Robert Reich, who was far from optimistic about the season continuing.

"I think there is a very good possibility we are not going to have a World Series this year and that would be the first time since 1904,"

Reich told a crowd of about 200 Democrats attending a fund-raiser for U.S. Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin.

Neither Selig nor Reich announced the meeting, which took place in Milwaukee and was disclosed by another owner.

Reich, according to a source speaking on the condition he not be identified, offered suggestions that didn't appear viable.

Selig confirmed the meeting took place but wouldn't comment on what was said. He wouldn't predict whether negotiations would resume before Friday's tentative deadline.

"Let's take each day as it comes," Selig said in a telephone interview.

Reich, who never mentioned the meeting, called the federal government's role in trying to settle the strike "frustrating. We can't make them agree if they don't want to agree."

"That we may not be having a world series in 1994 is a testament to the fact that baseball has gone from being our national pastime to a huge industry, which there is, I hate to say, a huge amount of greed," Reich said.

"I have a 10-year-old and a 13-year-old who said the other day, 'Daddy forget baseball. Professional football season has begun.' You don't want to think about it any more. I think a lot of fans are signing off."

As the strike completed its

25th day, President Clinton urged both sides to settle their differences. It was the first time no baseball was played on Labour Day, which was established in 1894.

"On this Labour Day, there's still time for them to go back to work and finish the best baseball season in 30 years — and I hope they will," Clinton said during an address to iron workers in Bath, Maine.

Behind the scenes, union officials and player agents were said to be talking directly with owners and club officials in an effort to establish a framework which possibly could lead to a settlement.

The most-discussed framework appeared to involve a "taxation" concept that was mentioned two weeks ago by Boston Red Sox Chief Executive Officer John Harrington, in which large-revenue clubs would have to share a greater

amount of money than others.

It was too early to tell if the discussions and ideas being exchanged would lead to anything significant.

Selig said he hadn't decided if he would take a more active role in the talks, stark contrast to commissioners Peter Ueberroth and Ken Vincent, who pushed for a settlement in 1985 and 1990.

Fehr, who was in his office on Labour Day, said he wasn't concerned about Selig's Friday deadline. Selig has said he would seek the union's input.

"It's out of my control, as it always has been," Fehr said. "I don't expect to hear from Bud. Bud will do whatever Bud will do. My ability to influence his thinking and decision-making seems to be at absolute zero."

Thirteen more games were cancelled Monday, raising the total to 324.

Strike a blessing for soccer fans

LONDON (AP) — Few American sports fans have appreciated the baseball strike. But soccer supporters will relish it on Wednesday night when they get to see a United States exhibition match on prime time TV.

The U.S. plays England on Wednesday at Wembley stadium, London, and the match will be shown live on ESPN 2 mid-afternoon with a tape delayed version going to air at peak viewing time on ESPN's main channel, reaching 62 million households.

"If the baseball strike wasn't on there's no way this march would be shown on a Wednesday night because there would have been a baseball game too," said Ronnie Krenzel, who is commenting the match for ESPN. "It's definitely the first ooo-World Cup broadcast for ESPN."

Soccer's future in the U.S. could well be paved by baseball's absence this season.

"The World Cup did create some momentum in the United States and I think this broadcast will help maintain it," Krenzel said.

"This will help, especially if they do well again. Soccer's definitely gaining popularity in the states, but it's still like a delicate baby, so every big broadcast could really affect interest in the game."

Lee's Asian Ga

may be withdraw

GOREN BRIDGE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Romania coach given army promotion

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — The coach widely credited with Romania's success in this year's World Cup soccer championship was promoted Monday to the rank of major general in the army. Besides coaching Romania's World Cup team, Angel Jordanescu is coach of Steaua, an army team. All members of that team have military rank. Jordanescu, a colonel in the army, was promoted by President Ion Iliescu to major general in a ceremony Monday. "It is a unique moment in my life," said the 43-year-old coach. Romania thrilled its fans this summer by making it to the quarterfinals of the World Cup and finishing seventh. Jordanescu turned down offers from Greece and other countries, deciding instead to stay with the Romanian team until his contract expires after the European Championships in 1996. Jordanescu was a midfielder for Steaua in 1986 when they won the European Championships in Seville. He later became assistant coach and then coach. He took over the job as national coach a year ago.

Swedish tennis star has son

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sonya Wilander, wife of tennis player Mats Wilander, gave birth to a son Wednesday, a Swedish report said. Wilander, who was eliminated from the U.S. Open this year in early rounds, was with Sonya when she gave birth to the 4.2-kilo (9.4-pound) boy at Greenwich Hospital near their home in the U.S. state of Connecticut, the Aftonbladet newspaper said. "A real heavy boy, just like his dad when he was born," Wilander was quoted as saying. Eighteen months ago, the couple had their first child, Emma. Wilander, who once was the No. 1 tennis player in the world, won the U.S. Open in 1988.

English footballer charged with murder

LONDON (AP) — British footballer James Kelly, 21, and two other men were charged Monday with the murder of a man who died after a brawl outside a hotel in Liverpool, northern England, police said. Kelly, a midfielder with the first division team Wolverhampton Wanderers, was charged with the murder of Peter Dunphy, 26, early Sunday. Also charged with murder were Kelly's brother John, 22, and a friend, Kevin Atkinson, 21. All three will appear before the city's magistrates Tuesday. Dunphy, a welder from Toxteth, Liverpool, died of head injuries in the Royal Liverpool Hospital following the incident outside the Bradford Hotel in the city centre.

Magic:
Too much
money
in NBA



Gascoigne hints at return to England

LONDON (R) — England's talented but problem-prone international midfielder Paul Gascoigne has hinted he may leave Italian club Lazio and return home this year.

Gascoigne, whose inspirational play helped take England to the semifinals of the 1990 World Cup in Italy, has been plagued by injury and poor form since he joined the Rome club four years ago.

"I'm definitely thinking about whether to come home this year," said Gascoigne who is currently recovering from his latest injury — a broken right leg. "We'll just have to see when I'm fit and playing again."

Things haven't gone as smoothly as I wanted them to. Now at the end of this year I'm really going to think about what I'm going to do.

As the strike completed its

Olympic spirit lives on six months after Lillehammer

LILLEHAMMER, Norway (AP) — While the snow, the banners and the cowbell-clanging crowds are long gone, the enthusiasm that spawned a nearly perfect Olympics lives on in this small Norwegian town.

"You would have to be very brave to go out on the streets of Lillehammer and say that hosting the Olympics was a bad idea," says Mayor Audun Tron.

Six months after a skier with torch in hand soared off the jump to end the Feb. 27 Winter Games, Lillehammer residents are warmed by good memories, booming business, a stream of tourists and about 500 new jobs.

Nearly 90 per cent of those asked in a recent poll said they thought having the games in this town of 23,000 was a good idea, compared

with about 60 per cent before the games.

Tourists have arrived just as Norway hoped, drawn by images of the venues, perfect weather and friendly, flag-waving hordes in the town 110 miles (180 kms) north of Oslo.

The one thing they aren't interested in is a dreary, late-summer day.

"Doring the games everyone wanted them. Now no one asks."

The Olympics certainly put this city on the map. The warmth of the people came through, as well as the beauty of the area, he says, standing near the Olympic rings in the cobblestones of Lillehammer's main pedestrian street.

The Lillehammer Olympic

Organising Committee (LOOC) left \$58 million to help the city and the other host towns cope with the projected \$2.2 million annual deficit of running the all-new Olympic venues.

The fund somewhat eased local fears, but that doesn't mean no one is worried.

The sprawling, \$11.5 million press centre is empty. No one is sure what to use it for.

Many vacation cabins built to house the media are unsold, and about 30 of them were sold at auction this weekend because the company that built them went bankrupt.

The number of hotel beds in the region has nearly doubled, from 8,300 in 1989 to 14,600, and the slow autumn season is approaching.

"There is always the risk of some bankruptcies," says LOOC spokesman Torstein

Rudi.

But the winter looks bright. Advance bookings for January and February are 70 per cent higher than in 1991, says Jo Kobra, of Lillehammer Development, a city company set up to run the venues and to keep interest in Lillehammer alive.

Lillehammer has found non-traditional uses for its winter venues. Rental go-carts sputter around at the freestyle skiing area, and ski-lifts haul hikes and paying riders to the top of the mountain for a 12-mile (20-km) trek into town.

A sports college is opening at the Olympic park above town, and a university is moving into the broadcast centre built for the games.

At the \$28 million bobsled track, which Lillehammer did not want to build, thousands of tourists have paid to ride wheeled bobsleds in summer and real ones in winter, providing \$285,000 in income.

"I think we have probably been better than any Olympic towns in figuring out ways to have activities all year long," Kobra says.

The organising committee's staff, which peaked at 800 people, dwindles by another 40 to 18 people this week. About 80 per cent of the staff has found other

jobs, Rudi says.

Tron says the town actually has grown by about 400 people since the games ended.

One enterprising former LOOC staff member, Line Urke, realised that other cities might want to know the secret of Lillehammer's perfect games.

So on Thursday, Urke is setting up shop in Lillehammer, offering advice and lectures by key LOOC personnel to future or hopeful Olympic hosts.

"Things went so well in Lillehammer that we think others should be able to learn from that experience," Urke says.

Many residents feared the games would change their picturesque town of carefully preserved wooden buildings from the 1800s. They were right.

"The whole town has been fixed up and is better than ever," Kobra says. "That, and the wonderful games themselves, is why people who were skeptical have changed their minds."

Tron even talks about bidding for the Winter Games every 20 years or so, although he knows the danger of trying to repeat past glories: "It might not be as perfect a second time around."

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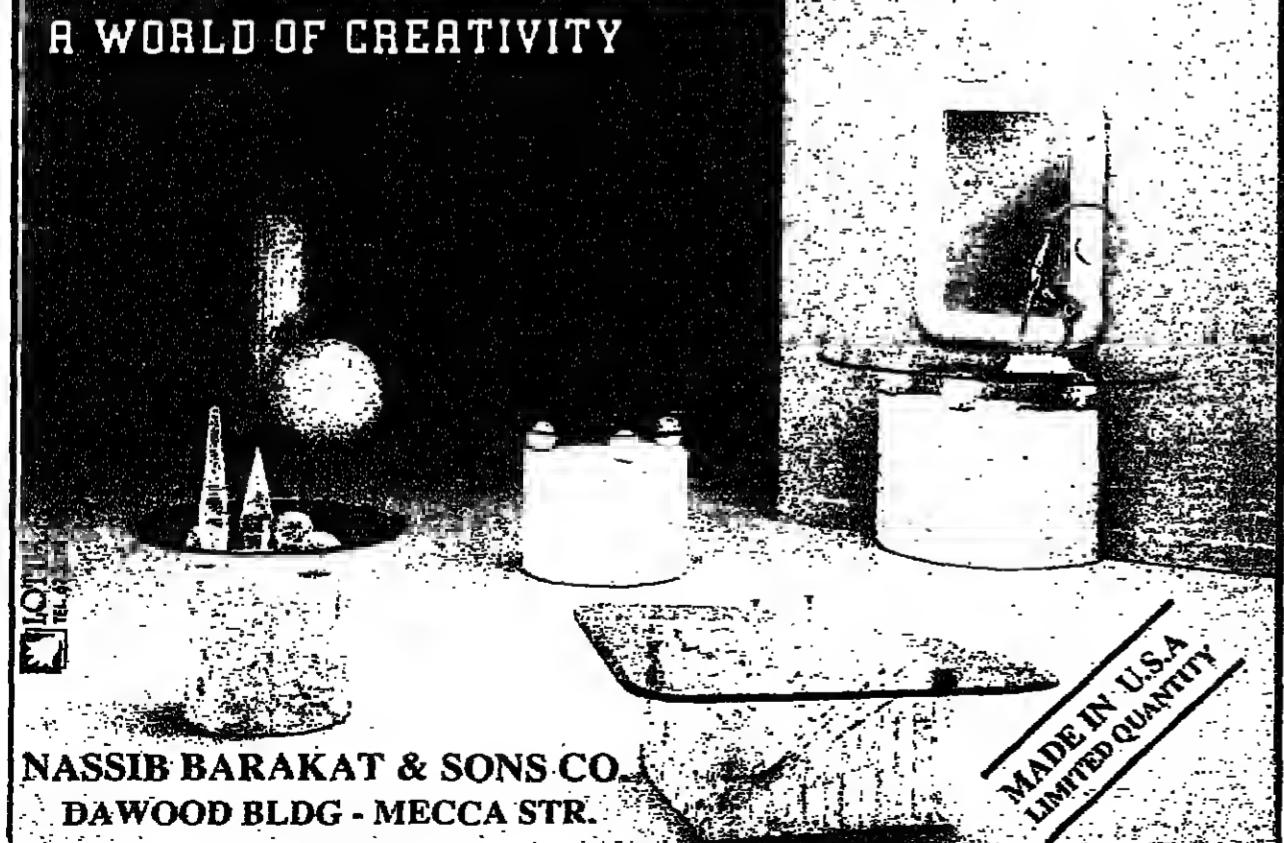
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Sports

to discuss baseball season

amount of money.

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Benetton and Schumacher face a day of reckoning

PARIS (R) — Michael Schu-

macher and the Benetton

Formula One motor racing

team face a day of reckoning

on Wednesday which could

result in their expulsion from

this year's championship.

The Benetton team go into

a potentially explosive meet-

ing with the FIA's World

Motor Sport Council to

answer charges that they ille-

gally and deliberately re-

moved a filter from their

refuelling rig before the Ger-

man Grand Prix in July.

Schumacher, who is

appealing against disquali-

fication from the Belgian

Grand Prix, and his Benetton

team could face serious

punishment.

Schumacher, the cham-

pionship leader, could have

his current two-race ban from

racing lengthened. The team

could be handed a substantial

or even be thrown out of

the title race.

The McLaren team, who

are charged with using an

illegal fully automatic gear-

box on Finn Mika Hak-

kkinen's car at the San Marino

Grand Prix May 1, could face

similar sanctions at the meet-

ing. McLaren, in a statement

issued Monday night, said

they did not believe they had

broke any of their rules.

A spokesman for the FIA

(International Motoring Fed-

eration) confirmed last

month that expulsion was the

most serious possible punish-

ment if it were found that

Benetton illegally tampered

with their refuelling equip-

ment.

His remarks confirmed

those of FIA President Max

Mosley who, before the sea-

son started, warned of dracon-

ian punishments for any

team or drivers found to be

breaking the new technical

regulations introduced this

year.

Schumacher, bunt and dis-

illusioned by recent events,

has threatened to leave the

Benetton team if it were

proved they went behind his

back to do things that were

against the rules.

He is appealing against

being stripped of his Belgian

Grand Prix success last

month when, after winning

the race.

This report suggested the

removal of the filter did not

cause the blaze, contrary to

earlier statements from the

FIA at the time the charges

against Benetton were

announced.

comfortably, he was disquali-

fied because the skid-block

beneath his car was found to

be undersized.

He failed in an appeal last

week against a two-race ban

and six-point deduction for

failure to respond to a black

flag at Silverstone during the

British Grand Prix in July.

Benetton, besieged by

rumours of irregular practice

and self-made problems since

the British Grand Prix, has

maintained that they re-

moved the refuelling filter in

Germany only with the per-

mission of the FIA's technical

delegate, Charlie Whiting.

The team, who will be rep-

resented in Paris by noted

British advocate George Car-

man, also commissioned an

independent inquiry into the

refuelling fire at Hock-

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Hopes rise for end to Algeria's violence

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Hopes for an end to Algeria's Muslim extremist violence rose Tuesday after the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) presented the government and opposition parties with terms for returning to mainstream politics.

President Liamine Zeroual's military-backed regime and five opposition parties ended talks on the front's proposals Monday by deciding to seek a compromise on dealing with the FIS and to meet again on September 20, officials said.

The government and the five parties discussed a letter to Mr. Zeroual from jailed FIS leader Abassi Madani, who offered to join the political truces provided that the regime freed all FIS leaders and activists, participants in the talks said.

Mr. Madani declared that he was ready for a "truce" between armed Islamic groups and the security forces, informed sources said, but while officials on Monday confirmed the existence of the letter, they gave no details of its contents.

Presidential spokesman M'houb Mihoubi said a "very positive result" of the talks was the "lifting of a major psychological barrier" because "outlawed parties" had been discussed in "frank and clear" fashion.

The FIS was outlawed in March 1992, two months af-

ter the military called off the second round of Algeria's first free general election since independence in 1962, in which the fundamentalists swept the board.

Mr. Madani and his deputy Ali Belhadj, who were already behind bars at the time of the poll, were subsequently convicted of state security offences and are both serving 12-year jail terms in the military prison at Blida south of the capital.

Plans to free the FIS leadership and about 1,000 other suspected activists currently being held in camps in the Saharan desert are currently being actively considered by the authorities, sources close to the talks said.

The opposition parties engaged in talks presented the government with a 14-point memorandum listing "appeasement measures" they want implemented to help end the violence, which has claimed more than 3,000 lives, and create a climate for a settlement.

The list also urged the suspension of the death penalty and so-called "special courts" that try for "terrorism and subversion." It urged a lifting of security measures and the eventual lifting of a state of emergency in place since February 1992.

The next round of talks was set for Sept. 20.

Three parties of the "democratic movement,"

however, boycotted the talks, including the Front for Socialist Forces which came second behind the Islamic Salvation Front in December 1991 first-round elections.

They have demanded a rapid resumption of the electoral process.

Al Khabar said the French and Burkina Faso charges d'affaire had been summoned to the Algerian foreign ministry here to provide "clarification" of the expulsion.

It was not clear from the report exactly what sort of information the Algerians were seeking.

Out of the 20 people deported by France, for allegedly endangering French national security and being involved with Algerian fundamentalist groups, 19 are of Algerian nationality and one is Moroccan.

Burkina Faso said last month it had agreed to accept the deportees for strictly humanitarian reasons.

A French court Monday annulled the order authorizing the deportation of one of the suspected fundamentalists.

The administrative court in Amiens, northern France, said Fatima Ressaf had demanded political asylum in France last November and that it was a "manifest error" to expel her from the country after a decision had been taken on whether or not she should be given asylum.



For suspects, all French of either Algerian or Moroccan origin were arrested by French police in connection with the attack on a Marrakesh hotel August 24 where two Spanish tourists were killed. Top: Kamal Benachcha (L) and Redouane Hammadi. Bottom: Stephane Ait Idir (L) and Abdessam Guerouz (R). (AP photo)

Irish prime minister, Sinn Fein president hold controversial meeting

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Ireland's prime minister on Tuesday held talks with Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA's political partners, provoking outrage from Protestants and a cool response from Britain.

Prime Minister Albert Reynolds greeted Mr. Adams, president of Sinn Fein at the government buildings here less than a week after the Irish Republican Army declared an open-ended truce.

Mr. Adams, cheered by a small group waving the Irish tricolour, said before entering the building: "It is an historic day, an historic occasion."

The talks lasted 90-minutes, officials said. There was no immediate statement.

Protestant politicians said the meeting, also attended by John Hume, leader of Northern Ireland's main Catholic political party, proved their charges of a secret deal with the IRA and accused Mr. Reynolds of "indecent haste."

Mr. Reynolds defended his immediate be confirmed, but the government troops have had the upper hand in the fighting recently.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction was fighting two other battles Tuesday against government-aligned factions, according to Gen. Najib.

One was in the southwestern part of the city near the Darulaman palace, home to previous Afghan kings, and the other was in Logar province, about 60 kilometres south of the city. No details were available.

Overall, there are nine separate factions involved in the Afghan civil war, and none is strong enough to win an outright military victory.

Repeated peace efforts by the United Nations and other mediators have failed. The U.N. representative to Afghanistan said last week that it was simply not possible to get all the warring factions together at the same negotiating table.

The Islamic factions fought together to oust a Communist government in 1992, then immediately began shooting at one another. More than 12,000 people have been killed, hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes and much of Kabul lies in ruins.

The claims could not im-

mediately be confirmed, but the government troops have had the upper hand in the fighting recently.

The events underlined the rift between Dublin and London. Mr. Reynolds insist that the IRA declaration is genuine, while London still seeks a firmer pledge before leaving Belfast for talks in London with Mr. Major that Mr. Reynolds had elevated Mr. Adams to "the place of credibility."

"Providing Sinn Fein and IRA demands and words demonstrate a renunciation of violence, the government would be ready to enter into exploratory dialogue," the spokesman said.

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"You can't expect us to say we're going to permanently stop defending our country, our people," said Ray McMahon, a Sinn Fein councilman in rural county Tyrone west of Belfast.

The goal of the British and Irish governments, outlined in a joint declaration in Dec. is for all parties to negotiate a future for Northern Ireland, with Sinn Fein joining preliminary talks three months after a permanent IRA ceasefire.

Mr. Reynolds plans to brief U.S. Vice President Al Gore at Shannon international airport in southwestern Ireland on Wednesday.

In London, Mr. Major's aides said he hoped that the Clinton administration would delay granting Mr. Adams a visa to the United States until it was clear that the ceasefire was permanent.

Holy See baulks at compromise

(Continued from page 1) makes no reference to homosexuality or homosexual couples, the Vatican believes the document should not leave open the possibility that unclear language could be interpreted as supporting non-traditional families.

But Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters: "I repeat, the Vatican came here to work for a consensus document."

The Vatican statement appeared to indicate the Holy See could demand the final document spell out its objections separately if it was not satisfied by proposed changes.

The statement also moved to quash speculation the Vatican was softening its stand against contraceptives, including use of condoms.

In preparatory talks in New York in April, the Vatican delegation did not put brackets around language in the draft that referred to family planning, contraceptives and the use of condoms with religious controversies.

"It is not satisfactory to us," one Vatican delegate said of a European rewriting which reinforces language excluding abortion as a means of family planning. Another said the Vatican had "serious misgivings."

On the other religious flank, Egyptian Islamists sniped at the conference from outside, saying the opening day on Monday confirmed their worst fears that it would stop the spread of AIDS.

Only parts of the document bracketed in preparatory meetings are being discussed in Cairo and this gave rise to speculation that the Holy See may be preparing to modify its position against contraceptives.

Tuesday's Vatican statement said this was done in order not to delay preparatory negotiations.

"Our moral position is always the same. There has been no change. In order not to block discussion we did not bracket this. But this does not mean in any way a change in our moral positions," Mr. Navarro-Valls said.

The Vatican balked at the European Union's first attempt to bridge the gap on abortion on Tuesday as delegates to a U.N. population conference worked their way through a document laden with religious controversy.

"A billion people already struggle to survive on a dollar a day. Two billion people are without clean water. Three million children die each year from malnutrition," Mr. Preston told the conference.

He noted that the population in developing countries was set to rise by 80 million a year during this decade with no guarantee they would all be housed and fed.

"The problem is that we are not doing enough — quickly enough — to implement the basic actions that experience has shown to be effective," Mr. Preston said.

The Vatican delegate said negotiations were still at an early stage and he was confident they could find common language by the time the

nine-day conference comes to an end.

The conference pits secular liberals against religious conservatives with grave reservations about references to abortion, the family and sex education in a draft "programme of action" for the next two decades.

Meanwhile, World Bank President Lewis T. Preston said Tuesday three million babies die of malnutrition each year and the world was not acting fast enough to curb population growth.

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"The problem is that we are not doing enough — quickly enough — to implement the basic actions that experience has shown to be effective," Mr. Preston said.

One in 10 children dies before the age of one and reducing "appallingly high infant mortality rates" was essential, Mr. Preston said.

Berlusconi cautious over magistrates' graft plan

ROME (Agencies) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gave a cautious welcome on Tuesday to plans proposed by leading magistrates to end Italy's graft scandals, but made clear he would not tolerate any intrusion by them in politics.

His statement, his first public reaction to the proposals, followed an outright rejection by cabinet spokesman Giuliano Ferrara that had angered Mr. Berlusconi's political partners in his coalition.

"With this we are opening a new era," Milan's chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borelli said in a newspaper interview on Monday. But some politicians said that with their plan the prosecutors had invaded the political process.

Referring to Borelli, Mr. Ferrara said: "When the Milan state prosecutor presents to the press the political-legislative strategy of his judicial offices, the constitution is violated."

Antonio di Pietro, who has spearheaded Italy's two-year judicial crusade against political and business corruption,

surprised the government at the weekend by suggesting fresh legislation to help resolve the tangentopoli (bribesville) scandal.

He and his colleagues in the mani pulite (clean hands) elite pool of prosecutors came up with a 14-point document aimed at clearing up past corruption cases and preventing others from arising.

"With this we are opening a new era," Milan's chief prosecutor Francesco Saverio Borelli said in a newspaper interview on Monday. But some politicians said that with their plan the prosecutors had invaded the political process.

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